- **BUSINESS / B1**
  1st 7-month total of OFW remittances up 22% to $4.7B
- **SPORTS / A27**
  La Salle Archers shoot down Ateneo Eagles anew
- **WORLD / A12**
  Bush presidency will be judged by 9/11, Katrina and Iraq war
- **NEWS / A2**
  Jueteng's gone, says Hagedorn

## Sweet smell of success in South comes from durian

UMMM... MABANGO NA ANG AMOY!

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE SMELL OF PROSperity is always sweet, even if it involves the notoriously pungent durian.

Hailing Mindanao as the Philippines' fruit basket,

SWEET/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

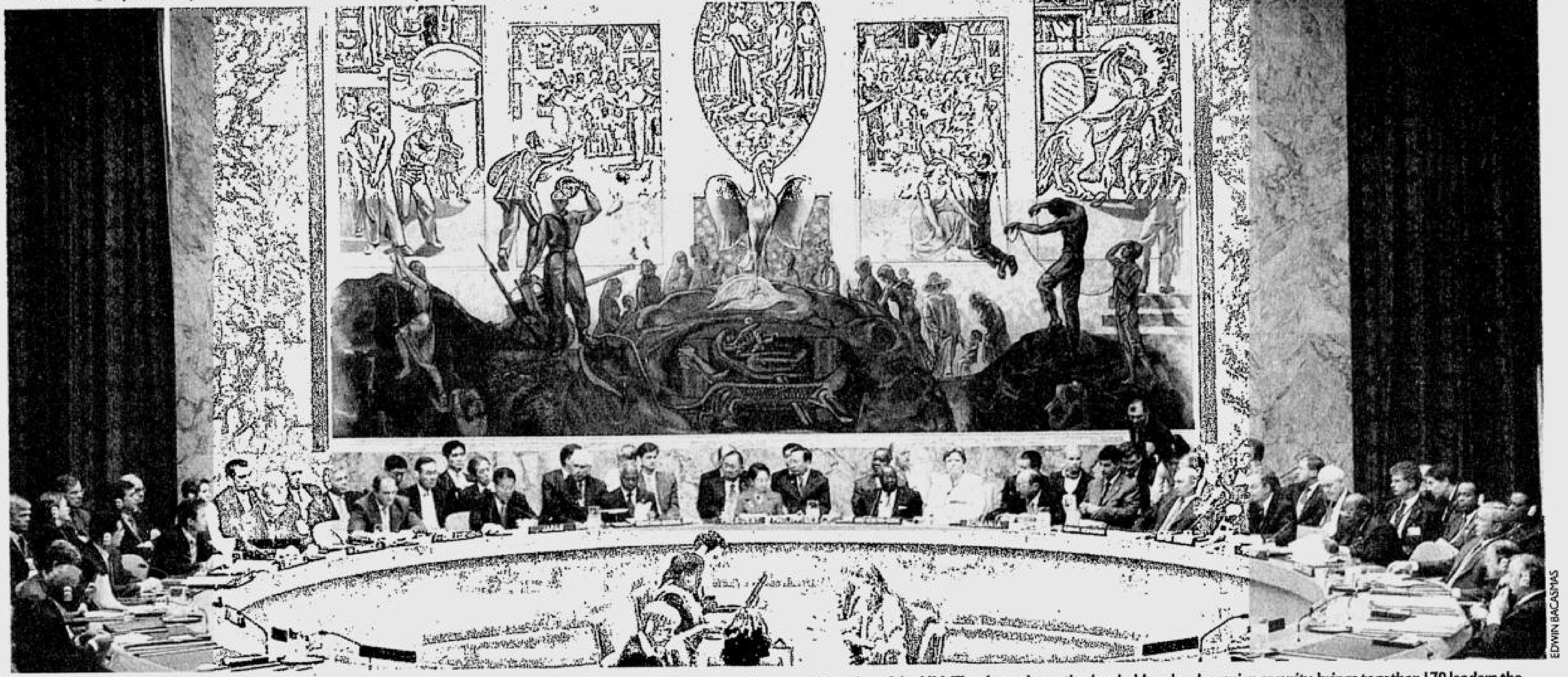
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, September 16, 2005 ★★ 72 pages / 9 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 280 P18

website: www.inq7.net

## Jobless rate fell to 7.7% in July, says NSO

THE COUNTRY'S JOBLESS RATE FELL TO 7.7 percent in July from 8.3 percent in April. The National Statistics Office yesterday said the number of employed people rose by 2.8 percent, or 900,000, to 32.5 million over the past year. Even so, 20.5 percent of the labor force considered themselves underemployed. Of the 2.7 million people without jobs, 60.7 percent were male. Half of the jobless were aged between 15 and 24. *AFP*



EDWIN BACASMAS

**THE GRAND** setting for the summit of leaders at the UN Security Council in New York City, part of the 60th anniversary celebration of the UN. The three-day gathering, held under draconian security, brings together 170 leaders the likes of US President George Bush, his Russian and Chinese counterparts, Vladimir Putin and Hu Jintao, along with Prime Ministers Tony Blair of Britain, Dominique de Villepin of France, Junichiro Koizumi of Japan and Israel's Ariel Sharon.

# 4 pols got 'hot' e-mails

## Erap received documents from FBI intel analyst

By Nelson F. Flores, Norman Bordadora and TJ Burgonio

AND THEN THERE WERE four. Former President Joseph Estrada, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez have joined opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson in acknowledging that they had received e-mail from either former police Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino or Filipino-American Leandro Aragoncillo.

Aquino, a former aide of Lacson's, and Aragoncillo, an intelligence analyst at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, were arrested Saturday in the United States by the FBI. *(See complaint on Page A21.)*

They were charged Monday with espionage in the US District Court of New Jersey.

The FBI said Aragoncillo had passed on classified information to Aquino who transmitted it to a "former national level public official," a "current high level public official" and a "second high level public official."

The three officials are set to be indicted by

4 POLS/ A21

EDWIN BACASMAS

**HI THERE.** Chatting like old friends, US President Bush and President Arroyo get up close before she presides over the UN Security Council meeting, a historic first for a woman head of state.

## GMA joins world leaders' appeal against terrorism

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

UNITED NATIONS—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo joined world leaders on Wednesday in appealing for a ban on incitement to terrorism but the summit on the United Nations' 60th anniversary fell short of ambitions for a fundamental reform of the agency.

The 15-member Security Council held a rare top-level session to adopt a resolution on terrorism proposed by Britain following the July 7 London bombings.

"We have a solemn obligation to stop terrorism at its early stages," US President George W. Bush told the session. "We must do all we can to disrupt each stage of planning and support for terrorist acts."

Bush also issued a more nuanced appeal, saying that war alone could not defeat terrorism if the world ignored "the hardship and oppression of others."

Ms Arroyo, who presided over the Security Council meeting, acknowledged Washington's role in the war against terror in the Philippines.

"To deny terrorists the means to carry out their attacks, we have found it practical to recognize the leadership of the US," she said. "We work closely on intelligence and security matters and in intercepting clandestine fund transfers through the Anti-Money Laundering

GMA JOINS/ A6

## Mike A misses Gloria most but not yet coming home

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NEW YORK CITY (VIA PLDT)—FIRST GENtleman Jose Miguel Arroyo will still have to cool his heels in San Francisco's bay breeze a little longer even after President Macapagal-Arroyo had declared that her worse political turmoil was over.

Arroyo said the UN Security Council meeting was the first time that he laid eyes on his wife since grudgingly going into voluntary exile in the United States two and a half months ago (he returned briefly to attend his half-sister's funer-

MIKE A/ A6

## Why 'spy' on RP? It's normal, says US diplomat

By Philip Tubeza, Nikko Dizon and Luige del Puerto

INSTEAD OF GANGING UP ON THE opposition after the arrest of Michael Ray Aquino, administration officials should be more concerned about the extent of American intelligence gathering in the country, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said yesterday.

Escudero pointed out that the US government was the source of whatever information the US Federal Bureau of Investigation intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo had leaked to Aquino.

"Why aren't they concerned that the US is gathering information about us without our knowledge?" Escudero said.

WHY SPY/ A4

## He made 15 trips to RP in 5 years

**ARAGONCILLO:** Last here from June 12-13, '05

By Leila B. Salaverria

INTELLIGENCE ANALYST Leandro Aragoncillo of the Federal Bureau of Investigation made 15 trips to the Philippines from 2000 to 2005, according to records of the Bureau of Immigration.

Aragoncillo, a graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas, has been charged with espionage by the United States government along with former police Senior Supt. Michael Ray

HE MADE/ A21

REM ZAMORA, AP

**BEDECKED** (extreme left) in turquoise and diamonds in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, on her husband's birthday last Monday. Auction pieces (above) from the Imelda collection include diamond earrings, tiara of diamonds and South Sea pearls, and a set of necklace, earrings and brooch valued at $1.4M. (Extreme right) Without the blings, Ms Marcos appears in court on Thursday to stop the sale.

## Imelda: These are all mine, stop auction

By Alcuin Papa

THE NOTE STUCK TO A Burmese ruby the size of a walnut stood out like a sore thumb from the glittering array of tiaras, diamonds and pearls that used to belong to Imelda Marcos.

"Sir, ma'am liked this when she saw this in New York. But she couldn't afford it," the note said, apparently to the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Ruby is the birthstone of Imelda Marcos who was born in the

IMELDA/ A8

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will have cloudy skies, with rains becoming more frequent over Central and Southern Luzon and Western Visayas. Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/09/16/05

# Jueteng's gone, says Hagedorn

By Jerry E. Esplanada and Luige A. del Puerto

DID ANTIJUETENG CZAR EDWARD HAGEDORN meet his self-imposed deadline of Sept. 15 for the "100-percent eradication" of the illegal numbers game?

It depends on who you ask.

Hagedorn, also Puerto Princesa City's mayor, yesterday said "jueteng" operations had "completely ceased" in all the 39 provinces of Luzon, including former "hot spots" like Pampanga, Pangasinan, Batangas, Laguna, Quezon and Ilocos Sur.

"We should not rest on our laurels, however, knowing fully well that jueteng could stage a comeback as it had before," said Hagedorn in a confidential report to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

For his part, however, Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao would only say that the illegal numbers game had been "reduced to the barest minimum since the last week of May."

He did not say it was completely gone.

"As of today, the campaign to eradicate jueteng continues to gain ground," the PNP chief said in a statement yesterday.

"The PNP Anti-Illegal Gambling Special Operations Task Force is continuously monitoring several areas where jueteng activities had been previously reported. We are confident we shall be able to sustain this campaign against illegal gambling with the cooperation of all sectors," he said.

Lomibao said that from January to July this year, the PNP confiscated some P6.23 million in bets and arrested 9,675 persons in nearly 10,000 police operations.

In his report to the President, Hagedorn stressed the need to replace his antijueteng task force's "friendly persuasion" approach with what he called a "hardball policy" to ensure that jueteng did not return.

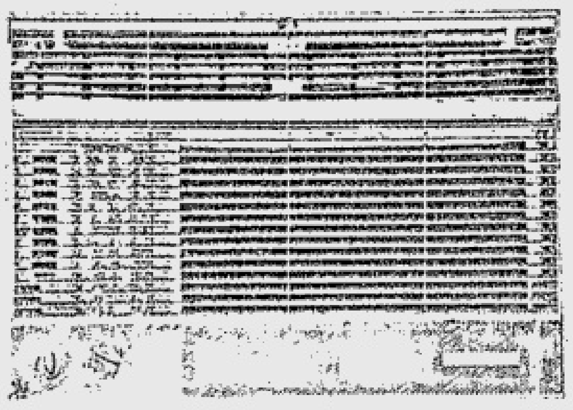
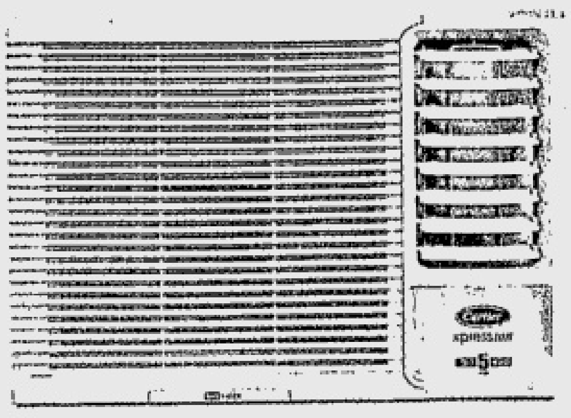
The policy calls for the "imposition of strict disciplinary action on local government and police personnel in areas where jueteng may resurface," he said.

"Even the so-called guerrilla operations should not be tolerated," Hagedorn said.

In his Sept. 15 report to the President, Hagedorn reiterated his proposal to revive the Small Town Lottery, which he called the "best legal substitute" for the illegal numbers game.

Launched in 1987 by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the STL, however, was reportedly used as a front by jueteng operators and corrupt government and law enforcement officials who continued to run and support the illegal game.

Hagedorn pointed out "with all the lessons learned during its previous run, there's a need to perfect the game this time."

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# Bishop rues loss of Pagcor funding for scholarships

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S DECISION to stop accepting cash donations from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) has taken a toll on scholarship and feeding program in the Archdiocese of Cebu.

"We're living in hardship," Cebu archbishop, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, told reporters in an interview.

But Vidal, who is reported to have received substantial amounts in the past from the state-run gambling agency, did not elaborate on the number of students who lost their Church scholarships or how many had been affected by the stopping of the feeding program.

Vidal said that as far as he was concerned the issue of accepting donations from Pagcor was "closed."

"The CBCP [Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines] said no, so it's no," he said.

As far back as January 2004, the CBCP issued a statement that the Church had decided to stop accepting donations derived from gambling.

But the Church clarified that there may be other Church institutions that may have been receiving donations from Pagcor "for the sake of the poor."

The issue of the Church accepting gambling money was recently resurrected when the INQUIRER reported in early September that Vidal, along with Archbishops Fernando Capalla and Paciano Aniceto, had received cash donations of between P500,000 and P4 million from Pagcor.

Quoting from a Pagcor memorandum from chair Efraim Genuino, the INQUIRER reported that during Christmas 2003 alone, the agency had set aside as "cash gift" P500,000 for Vidal, Aniceto and Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra. Capalla and Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros was allocated P100,000 each during the same period.

Vidal, Capalla and Aniceto all maintained that all the donations they got from Pagcor went straight to the poor.

The INQUIRER has learned that the budget of at least one convent in Bulacan has suffered after the Church gave up the gambling money.

The convent used to receive some P25,000 from its bishop for operating expenses, such as for meals and salaries of employees. *Christian V. Esguerra*

# Aussie mining firm wary of NGO protests

By Blanche S. Rivera

AUSTRALIA IS READY TO PUT IN BILLIONS of dollars in the Philippines' mining industry if the government could sustain the resurgence of mining despite persistent opposition from nongovernment organizations, an executive of an Australian mining firm with a multibillion contract here said.

Rob Thomson, chief operating officer of Climax Mining Ltd., said many international investors were concerned about the activities of anti-mining groups who were blocking mining projects, especially those operated by foreigners.

"Given a strong NGO activism against mining, we need a demonstration that it can work here," Thomson said in a recent interview.

Climax Mining Ltd., the parent company of Australasian Philippines Mining Inc. (APMI), which has a $117-million contract to mine gold and copper in Didipio Valley in Nueva Vizcaya, recently became the target of scandalous allegations by NGOs in the province.

Antimining groups including the Catholic diocese of Bayombong issued a joint statement denouncing the provincial council for "heeding the call of money" and unanimously endorsing the Didipio mining project.

The council and APMI officers have denied any exchange of money for the approval of the 15-year project that targets the extraction of 23.8 million tons of gold and copper.

"The battle over mining in the Philippines is happening over the Didipio project, that's why the opponents of mining are fighting so hard to stop it," Thomson said.

# Husband comes to aid of Pinay in Singapore slay

**By Volt Contreras**

AGUILAR at Naia: 'Just praying'

THE HUSBAND OF GUEN Aguilar, the Filipino domestic helper accused of the gruesome murder of another Filipino worker in Singapore, left for the city state early last night to be by his wife's side at her court appearance today.

Edwin Aguilar showed little emotion and gave short, tentative answers when he stopped at the Department of Foreign Affairs for a press briefing two hours before his 6 p.m. flight.

The 27-year-old father of two was to be accompanied to Singapore by Roque Verzosa, the mayor of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, and lawyer Sheryl Vitales of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"I'm just praying," he replied when asked how he was coping.

Guen Aguilar, 29, is accused of killing her compatriot, Jane Parangan La Puebla, 26, last Wednesday, chopping up her body, and disposing of the parts in plastic bags. She was charged last Sunday.

Aguilar's family said she was framed and appealed to Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday to save her from a possible death sentence.

The Philippine Embassy in Singapore has hired a Singaporean lawyer, Shashi Nathan, to assist Aguilar. Nathan said he would apply for access to his client today. He said he did not expect her to enter a plea.

DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said the department was paying for Edwin Aguilar's trip.

Edwin said his wife last communicated with him by text last Friday, the day before she was arrested. He said she just wanted to know how the family was.

Asuque said the DFA was still waiting for clearance from the Singaporean authorities for the release La Puebla's remains and eventual return to the country.

The National Bureau of Investigation will be sending a pathologist and a bureau agent to Singapore to observe the autopsy.

The NBI had also sent agents to Tagudin, Ilocos Sur to get statements from suspect Guen Aguilar's family.

The Singapore government, reacting to the Aguilar family's claim that Guen had been framed, said she has been treated fairly by Singapore's justice system.

"Guen Garlejo Aguilar is treated no differently from any other suspect ... who has been charged with a similar offense," the home affairs ministry said Wednesday.

A Singaporean court has permitted police to hold Aguilar for a week without access to a lawyer or her family.

"Immediate access to legal counsel and her family members is presently not allowed so as not to compromise the ongoing investigations," the ministry said.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has moved to assist the families of both the victim and the accused.

The CBCP has formed a "crisis intervention team" in the victim's hometown in Nueva Vizcaya through its Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrant and Itinerant Workers.

The team will primarily assist the La Pueblas in "psycho-emotional therapy and family counseling which are needed by the family at present," the commission said in a statement.

A similar support group was formed by the CBCP to assist Aguilar's family in Ilocos Sur. *With reports from Margaux Ortiz, Christian V. Esguerra and AP*

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# Palace disowns bid to defer VAT

**By Christine O. Avendaño**

MALACAÑANG HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH the bid by an ally in Congress to defer the imposition of the expanded value-added tax (VAT) on petroleum products and electricity, presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio said yesterday.

Claudio said Albay Rep. Joey Salceda's filing of a resolution in the House of Representatives to defer imposition of the VAT on those products had "no imprimatur or blessing from Malacañang."

"(Salceda) never informed or consulted us (about his plan)," Claudio said in a phone interview.

Salceda the other day told House officials some 147 congressmen had signified their intention to co-author House Joint Resolution No. 12 that he filed seeking to defer implementation of the 12-percent VAT on oil and electric power.

Salceda said he believed it impractical to raise the taxes on these products, which had risen 66 percent since the start of the year.

He told the INQUIRER that a similar resolution would be filed in the Senate by Sen. Manuel Roxas III.

The new VAT law was to be implemented in July but the Supreme Court blocked it after the political opposition questioned some provisions of the tax measure before the tribunal.

The high court only recently ruled on the constitutionality of the VAT law and is set to lift its restraining order on its implementation before October.

Claudio said some lawmakers had questioned whether a joint resolution could defer implementation of a law.

He said the lawmakers he talked to had told him postponing implementation of the VAT law through a resolution was "in effect an amendment to the law."

Some of the lawmakers believed that since it was a tax measure, a bill should emanate from the House and the usual process should be followed, he said. *With Norman Bordadora*

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# Why spy on RP? It's normal, says US diplomat

From page A1

**ESTRADA:** I showed documents to Defensor and others.

**LACSON:** Yes, but the materials had already come out in the media.

**GOLEZ:** I checked my e-mails from Aquino and they were all clean.

**PIMENTEL:** I wouldn't be surprised if they're trying to implicate me.

"We should be more concerned about what the governments of other countries are doing to us even if they're our friends," he added.

## It's normal

But US Charge d' Affaires Darryl Johnson said that his government's analyses of the political situation in the Philippines are considered "confidential information."

"It's normal ... It's an analysis of a country's political situation," Johnson told reporters in an informal interview during a media reception sponsored by the US Embassy on Wednesday night.

Johnson was replying to a question on why the US government kept confidential information on the Philippines.

But Johnson stressed the US Embassy did not know what "confidential information," illegally obtained from the FBI, had supposedly been passed on by former police Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino to three Filipino politicians.

The envoy also denied knowing who the politicians were, adding that he had learned more about the case from the Philippine media than from Washington.

Johnson also said that the relationship of the United States and Philippines was "too strong, too long" to be affected by Aquino's case.

## Who's spying on whom?

A leftist group echoed the opposition's reaction to the cases now facing Aquino and FBI intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo. They proved the United States was spying on the country's internal affairs, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

While the KMP did not condone what Aquino and Aragoncillo did, they said the FBI must also account for its own spying activities.

## Charge US with spying

"What is the FBI doing with those classified information in the first place? They have no business with our internal affairs," said KMP spokesperson Carl Anthony Ala in an interview.

He said Filipinos should be gravely concerned about the revelation that the FBI was keeping tabs on their leaders.

"This has grave implications on both our public and private security. They were able to get data on us," Ala said.

"On this basis, it is the US that should be the one charged with espionage," he added.

## Rosebud rejoices

Mary "Rosebud" Ong yesterday said she "feels vindicated" that the US government had detained Aquino, whom she had charged with kidnapping, murder and wiretapping in the Office of the Ombudsman, along with ex-police official Cesar Mancao III, Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and several other police officers.

"I don't have to lift a finger," she said in a text message to the INQUIRER. "God worked in a miraculous way. (It) all caught up with him."

A former antinarcotics agent and ex-informant of the defunct President Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, Ong was bitter because the United States canceled her visa this year.

She said she was particularly hurt because the officers she exposed—Aquino and Mancao—were free in the United States while she had been "sacrificing for five years" here.

Aquino and Mancao fled to the United States via Hon Kong in July 2001 despite a hold-departure order issued against them in connection with the Labor Day siege of Malacañang.

They had also been indicted in the abduction-slay case of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito.

## Permanently barred from US

Tagged as a drug trafficker, US authorities had permanently barred Ong and her family from entering American territory. "I'm vindicated for two reasons," Ong said.

"First, I charged Aquino (in the) Ombudsman for kidnapping together with (Lacson) in 2000. Second, my visa was canceled by the (US) embassy."

During a visit to the US Embassy, Ong said she had tried to explain to a consul that she was, in fact, the complainant in drug and kidnapping cases against top police officials.

But the consul denied her a visa all the same.

Now she has one more prayer—that the US government cancel Lacson's and his family's visas, too, if he is charged and found guilty of receiving classified information from Aquino. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

## Correction

IN THE SEPT. 14 issue, a headline on Page A6—"New raps for Gen. Garcia"—misstated the name of the retired general who is facing charges of unexplained wealth and perjury. Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo on Tuesday ordered the filing of the charges in the Sandiganbayan against retired Armed Forces comptroller Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot—not former AFP finance chief Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia. No new charges have been filed against Garcia who is currently undergoing trial for plunder.

* * *

*Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.*

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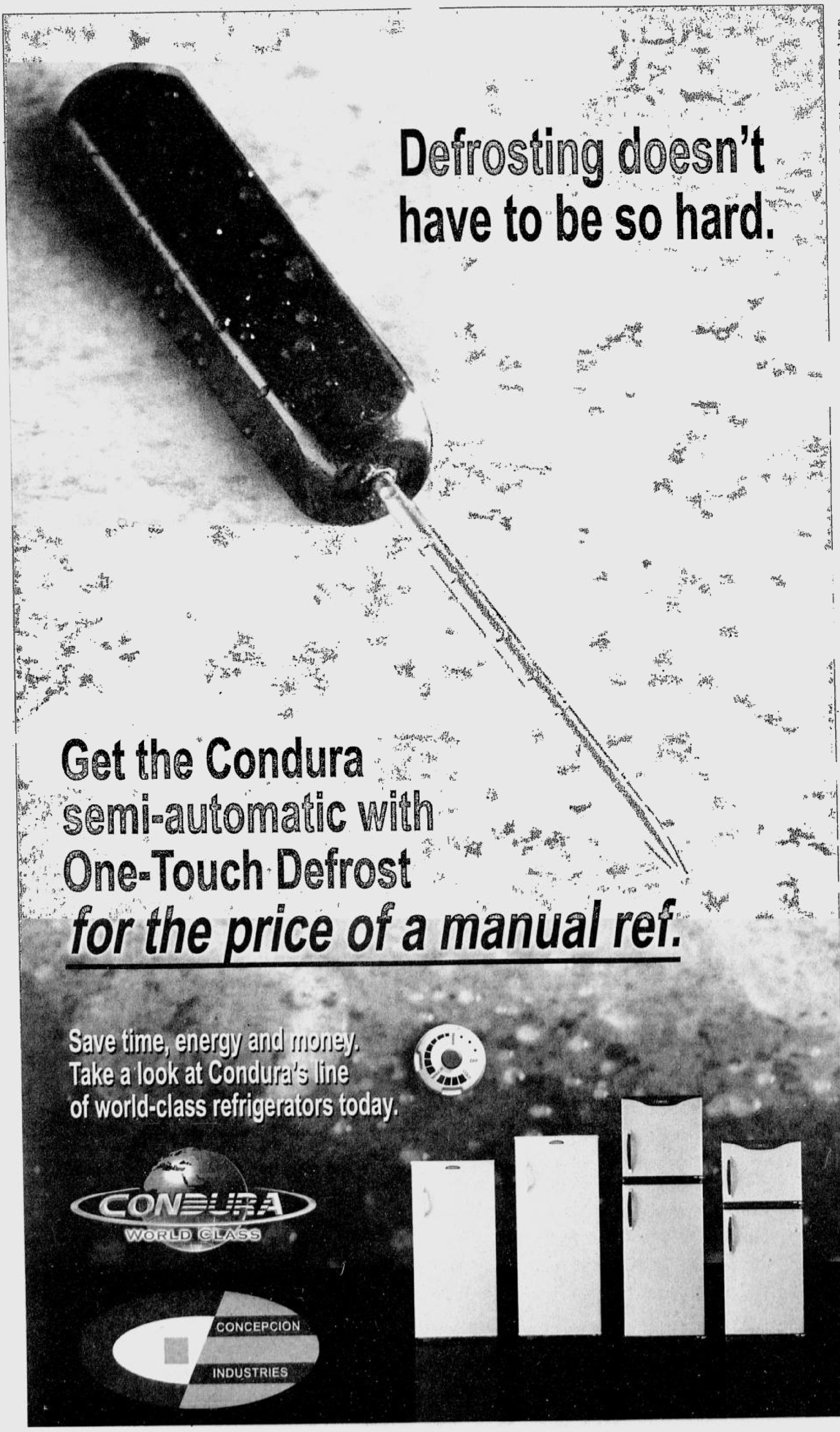
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# RP not ready for biochem terror attack, says PNP exec

**By Luige A. del Puerto**

DONT TELL THE TERRORISTS, BUT THE Philippines is ill-equipped to cope with a biochemical attack, like sarin gas, in a public place.

Simply put, a ranking police intelligence officer yesterday said: "We're not prepared for it."

The officer said no police unit has been trained to respond to a gas attack, such as what happened in Tokyo's subway system in 1995. That attack, perpetrated by members of a fanatical cult, killed nearly a dozen people and injured 5,000 others.

He said the government did not have the equipment to contain, handle and transfer toxic chemicals like anthrax or sarin.

"We also don't have chemical suits and not many gas masks," he said.

The only good thing going for the country is that local and regional terrorists have not shown interest in a biochemical attack, he said.

Quoting data from the intelligence community, the officer said there "is no indication yet that terrorists are planning or intending to use biochemical weapons."

"They prefer to employ bombs, because their mentality is that an explosion looks better," he said.

The country, however, must be prepared for anything, including a biochemical attack. Describing terrorism as a "man-made disaster," the officer suggested that part of the government's calamity fund be used to buy equipment and train personnel on how to respond to a biochemical disaster.

The country already has a bomb data center, which analyzes bomb signatures and trains local explosives and ordnance experts.

Put up with the help of the Australian government, the center has investigated some of the biggest bomb attacks in the country, including the Valentine's Day bombings this year, and the twin bombings in Zamboanga City last month.

Intelligence officials had earlier said the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror network had established training bases in Mindanao. The JI reportedly has close ties to the homegrown Abu Sayyaf terror and bandit group and the international terror network of Osama bin Laden.

The officials said Indonesia was the JI's "war front" while its fund-raising centers were in Singapore and Malaysia.

Last month, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said several JI members had been spotted in Mindanao and Metro Manila.

He warned they may have been planning attacks in several parts of the country.

# SC junks pleas vs House ruling on impeachment

**By Armand N. Nocum**

THE SUPREME COURT HAS FOR THE SECOND time dismissed as "premature" the petition of lawyer Ernesto B. Francisco Jr. seeking for a review of the House of Representatives rule that only one impeachment complaint can be filed against an impeachable official.

The high court also denied for "lack of merit" the motion of lawyer Oliver Lozano, who authored the first impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, asking the SC that he be given more time to file a petition to "nullify the justice committee report" of the House of Representatives.

In a resolution dated Sept. 13, the high tribunal said it dismissed Francisco's petition "for being premature as no motion for reconsideration was filed with the House of Representatives."

Francisco filed the second petition after the House justice panel voted to throw out the three impeachment complaints against the President. The House affirmed the panel's decision.

The Supreme Court also earlier junked Francisco's first petition questioning the constitutionality of the provision in the House rules limiting to one per year the filing of an impeachment complaint. The SC said the petition was filed even before the House justice committee had decided on the matter.

In a second petition filed last Sept. 6, Francisco asked the court to declare the House rules on impeachment unconstitutional, particularly the provision that prohibits the filing of more than one impeachment complaint in one year.

"The ruling that an impeachment proceeding is deemed initiated by the mere filing of an impeachment complaint and its referral to the committee on justice is clearly susceptible (to) abuse and will effectively shield a corrupt, impeachable official from impeachment," Francisco argued.

"All that an impeachable official needs to do to avoid being impeached is to yearly ask somebody to file a sham impeachment complaint or a complaint which can easily be declared insufficient in form and substance and have it endorsed by an ally-representative," he said.

Francisco is the lawyer who caused the making of the so-called "Francisco ruling" or "Francisco doctrine." This was after he and 17 others succeeded in filing a petition in November 2003 "seeking to nullify certain provisions of the impeachment rules and bar the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr."

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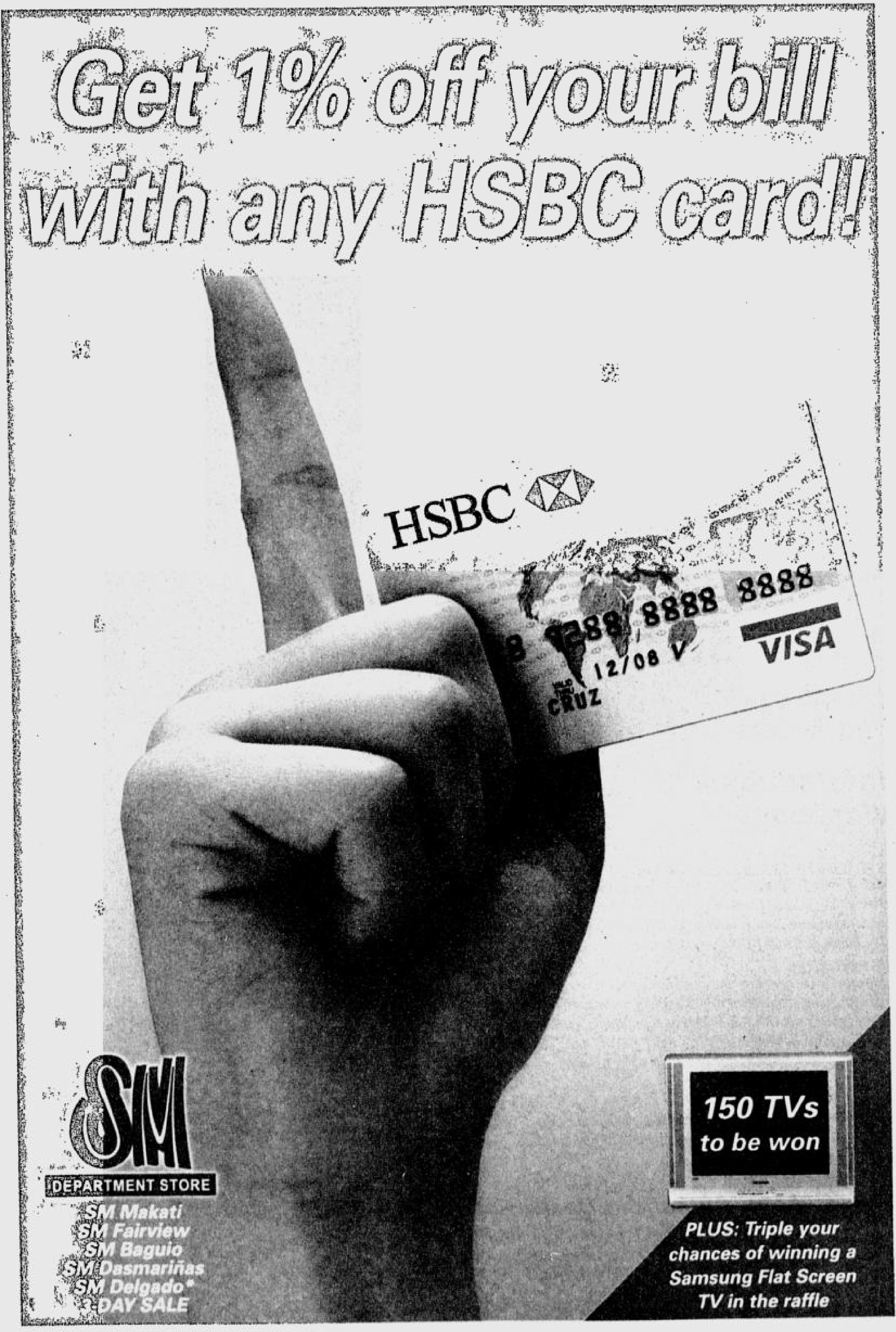

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# GMA joins world leaders' appeal vs terrorism

WITH A PROTECTIVE HAND on her shoulder from the world's only remaining superpower, President Arroyo is set to make history as the first woman and first Asian to preside over a Security Council meeting. AFP

BRITISH PM Tony Blair exchanges pleasantries with President Arroyo. Philippine envoy to UN Lauro Baja is second from left. Behind Blair is the British ambassador to the UN. AP

From page A1

Law which we enacted after 9-11," Ms Arroyo said.

## Practical to get US aid

"To develop our state capacity to prevent terrorism, the Philippines has also found it practical to accept American assistance for our ongoing defense reforms and soon for Philippine law enforcement reforms."

Ms Arroyo endorsed the US-backed Proliferation Security Initiative where countries would commit to interdict sea vessels or aircraft reasonably suspected of carrying suspicious cargo, specifically weapons of mass destruction.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan told the gathering of kings, presidents and prime ministers that despite some progress, negotiators had failed to achieve the profound overhaul of UN policies and institutions he sought.

He conceded that in many areas, including enlargement of the Security Council, members remained sharply divided. "We have not yet achieved the sweeping and fundamental reform that I and many others believe is required," Annan said.

## Biggest UN challenge

"Our biggest challenge and our biggest failing is on nuclear proliferation and disarmament," he told the opening session of the three-day summit, which has turned from solving crises to highlighting the world body's difficulties.

Negotiations on a summit document the world leaders are to endorse dropped disarmament proposals from Norway and South Africa, backed by about 80 nations. The United States objected to calls for nuclear disarmament but stressed the danger of terrorists and rogue states obtaining unconventional weapons.

French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin served a reminder of the topicality of the issue, warning Iran that it faced referral to the UN Security Council unless it met its obligations under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

## Breakthrough

Tehran insists it has the right to enrich uranium for what it says is a civilian nuclear program, but Western nations suspect it of a clandestine drive to develop an atom bomb.

The foreign ministers of France, Britain and Germany are seeking a meeting with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Thursday in what could be a last-ditch effort to "test the temperature of Iran's new leadership" on the nuclear issue, a European diplomat said.

Annan said it was a breakthrough that the international community had agreed for the first time it had a responsibility to intervene to protect civilians against genocide, war crimes and ethnic cleansing.

But billions of people still depended on radical action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals that include halving extreme poverty by half by 2015, Annan told the gathering.

The summit was overshadowed by a scandal over abuses of the UN oil-for-food program in Iraq.

## UN corruption scored

Bush referred obliquely to the scandal, saying the United Nations must be "free of corruption, and accountable to the people it serves" and practice the high moral standards it preached.

He also insisted the United States was committed to the Millennium Development Goals, despite Washington's earlier demands that references to the phrase be deleted from the summit document. And he pledged to drop all trade barriers if other countries did the same.

Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa said it never occurred to him that the UN members would have problems in agreeing to eradicate poverty.

"When a jumbo jet crashes, we will rush in with assistance but we forget that each day 30,000 children die unnecessarily from poverty-related preventable causes—equivalent to 100 jumbo jets crashing every day," Mkapa said.

In a veiled criticism of the United States, the world's richest nation, Dutch Prime Minister Jan-Peter Balkenende said the Europeans had agreed to boost development aid spending but "we need to see more equal burden-sharing."

Most of the delegates spent their times meeting each other, including a handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, whose nations have no diplomatic relations.

"I was standing and he came in a group and he joined the group and he shook hands with me," Musharraf said. "He asked me how I was. I asked him how you are. And that's very good."

## First Asian to chair council

Ms Arroyo is the first Asian and the first Philippine leader to chair the most powerful UN body under a rotating arrangement. She wore a bright red suit that made her stand out among a sea of black and gray suits.

She held her head high as she mingled and shook hands with the various leaders of the world's most affluent countries. President Bush gave her a peck on the cheek, a hug and a pat on the back, before she proceeded to the center chair to open the summit meeting.

Ms Arroyo was poised and vibrant while calling out the names of leaders upon their turn to express their views on proposals for tougher antiterror measures.

In a briefing for representatives of American financial services giants JP Morgan and Credit Suisse First Boston, she stressed the need for her to regain public confidence in the Philippines after escaping a move to impeach her for allegedly stealing last year's election.

"I realize the trust I need to gain with our people if we are to move ahead with political and economic reform," said Ms Arroyo.

She maintained that her poor trust ratings were largely due to economic rather than political factors.

## Filipinos impatient

"The problem of course is that current economic growth is working for too few people," Ms Arroyo said. "I have millions of poor people who have rightfully lost patience with the political leaders and their individual circumstances."

Despite her unpopularity, Ms Arroyo said she had the strength to pursue the economic reforms needed to improve the country's fiscal position and attract the interest of foreign investors.

"My agenda is the right agenda and the people recognize that. The problem is that for every two steps we take forward, we take one back. The gains are too easily obscured by the setbacks or dominated by sensational headlines," she said.

With the impeachment case over, Ms Arroyo assured that she was "politically stronger" to put into place the reforms the country needed. *Reuters*

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# Mike A misses Gloria most but he's not yet coming . . .

From page A1

al) to take off some of the heat bearing down on President Arroyo.

When asked what he missed most about the Philippines, Arroyo in a heartbeat replied: "Gloria."

"I have long been wanting to go back (to the Philippines) because I miss my family. But I don't know when (I'll go home)," said Arroyo in an ambush interview shortly after President Arroyo presided over the largest ever gathering of heads of state at the 60th anniversary of the United Nations.

But the First Couple's son, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, is expected to cut short his exile soon. "I don't know Mikey's plan but I believe he is being asked to return. But I still don't know why," the elder Arroyo said.

The President was alone with her close-in security when she flew to New York and checked in at the St. Regis Hotel on Sept. 14. The First Gentleman, who was in New York as early as Sept. 12, was first seen with the President at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel for US President George W. Bush's dinner that same day.

He said his family bore the brunt of the political crisis buffeting the President just for the sake of the country. But seeing his wife "masterfully" presiding over a gathering of the world's most powerful leaders at the United Nations Security Council, Arroyo said all the family's sacrifices of the past few months "were all worth it."

"I'm very proud of her the way she conducted the Security Council meeting. Now you can see. I think it's the first time that a woman conducted the meeting. It was very good. I'm also very proud because she's a Filipino," Arroyo said.

"She's strong and she's a good leader. She's a very smart leader, a smart person."

Arroyo said that he never thought that the President would go on the world stage and lead the UN Security Council despite the dark months that they had been through with former allies and Cabinet officials joining the opposition to seek her ouster.

On this point, Arroyo said the President's appearance at the UN Security Council was a vindication for the First Family.

Mr. Arroyo, however, did not share the same confidence as his wife in assessing the opposition's efforts to ease her out of Malacañang. "I don't know (if the crisis is over). Let's just have fun tonight," Arroyo said.

# School owner a tax-evader, BIR charges

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE YESterday charged the owner-operator of private school chain St. James College with tax evasion as taxmen mounted a fresh crackdown on those hiding behind the tax-exempt status of foundations.

As if to stress that the government's Operation RATE (Run After Tax Evaders Program) has not lost steam, BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Bunag announced that school operator James Torres – who also sits as president of the Jaime T. Torres Foundation (Tefi) – was found out to have incurred a total tax liability of P48.9 million.

Torres' St. James School system runs campuses in Quezon City, Parañaque and Calamba.

"This demonstrates clearly our determination to flush out all businessmen who resort to all means of tax dodging," Bunag said.

"As long as RATE is here, we will never stop running after suspected tax evaders in the country. RATE is now playing a pivotal role in this objective," he said.

BIR's investigation revealed that Tefi is the lessee-operator of the St. James College system based on the 10-year lease-agreement entered into between Torres and Tefi. The lease amounts to P20 million, payable a year in advance upon signing of the deal, with the lease to be increased 10 percent each year.

The BIR also found out that Torres was not declaring his own income. Instead, he was declaring the income of the school under the St. James College system.

Torres claimed he filed his income tax return for taxable year 2000 but admitted he did not file a return in 2001.

The BIR said his ITR for 2000 indicated that Torres did not declare his income arising from the lease of his properties. He claimed tax exemption under the Tax Code provisions on non-profit educational institutions.

But BIR investigators said that Torres could not circumvent the law by claiming that the schools and himself were one and the same entity, considering that the lease contract proved that he was representing himself in a personal capacity.

"Tefi is a juridical entity and Mr. Torres should have filed a separate income tax return as well as VAT (value added tax) returns for the rental income," the BIR said. The bureau noted that Torres was employing the scheme to enhance his tax evasion tactics.

The BIR said that after evading taxes through the filing of questionable returns, Torres was now attempting to evade discovery by deliberately failing to give correct and accurate information in his 2000 ITR, where he failed to include income derived from the lease agreement.

The bureau argued that Torres' non-declaration of the lease income of P20 million in 1998, P22 million in 1999, P24.2 million in 2000 and P26 .62 million in 2001 was considered a "substantial" failure under his declaration of income, and constituted prima facie evidence of false or fraudulent return under the Tax Code.

"What makes the tax evasion more prominent is the clear showing of willfully failing to account as part of his personal income the lease income derived from the foundation and disguising the same as part of the supposed exemption being claimed in previous returns had it not been for its timely discovery," the BIR reported.

It said Torres' continued and unjustified refusal to give access to his books of accounts prompted a court action against him in Quezon City and the issuance of a warrant for his arrest. With no access to his books, the BIR said its assessment of P48.9 million liability was based on the "best evidence obtainable."

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## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 16, 2005
24th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 Tim 6:2-12
Gospel: Luke 8:1-3

Jesus walked through towns and countryside, preaching and giving the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve followed him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases: Mary called Magdalene, who had been freed of seven demons; Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod's steward; Suzanna and others who provided for them out of their own funds.

**Commentary**

*Here we are introduced to other disciples, who accompanied him from the beginning in Galilee as he preached and gave away the good news of the kingdom of God, journeying through towns and countryside, on the way to Jerusalem: women, some not named, others clearly singled out as disciples in their own right: Mary called Magdalene healed of her afflictions, Joanna wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, Suzanna and others who provided for them (the twelve). All told, there are another twelve named in the gospels, women (not counting Mary his mother). This is their company—those who they break bread with, share life and wealth and the struggle to bring the kingdom with. Do we have twelve—each of women and men that form our company as we make our way to the cross and resurrection today?*

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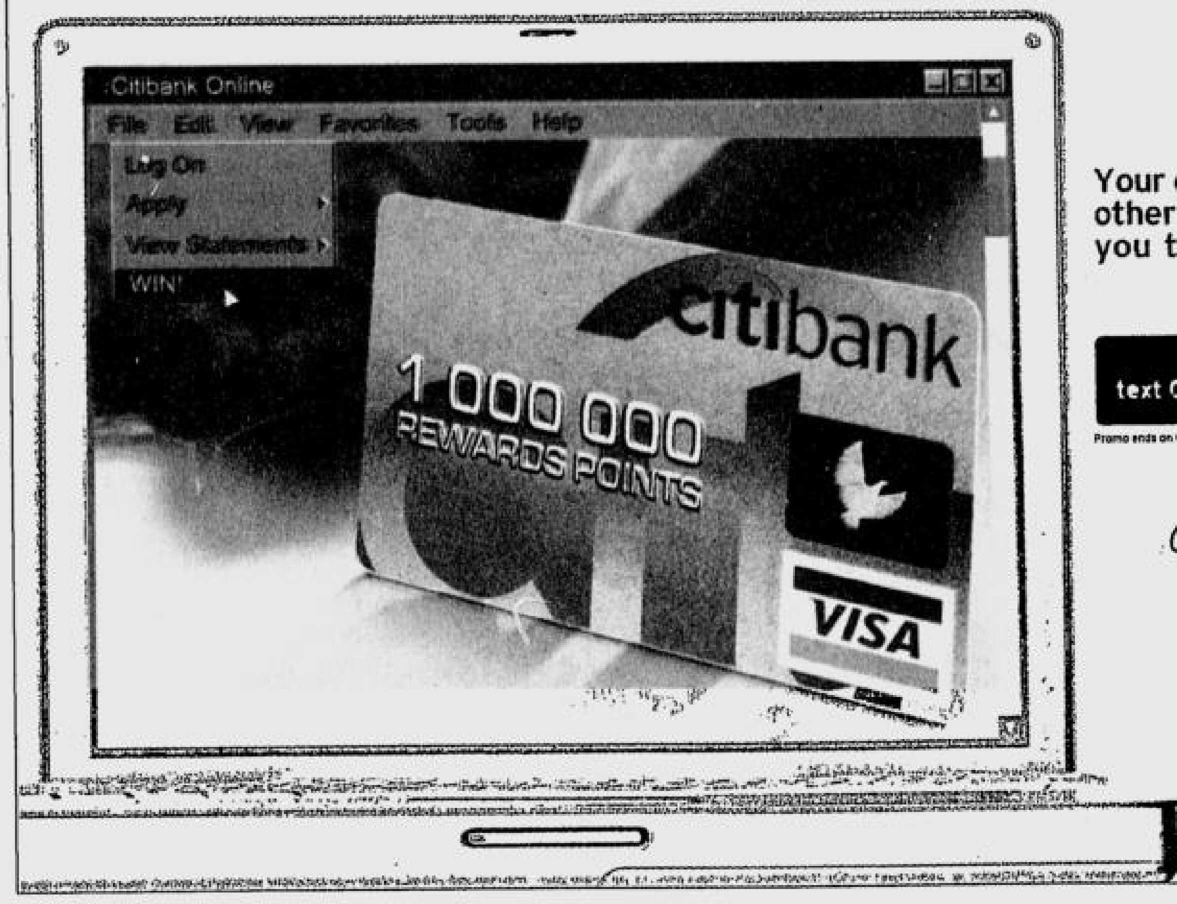

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# *DFA never cancelled Aquino's passport after he fled to US*

By Michael Lim Ubac

NEW YORK—CONTRARY TO the claim of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Michael Ray Aquino's passport was not cancelled after he fled to the United States to escape prosecution for the murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, in 2000.

"He's a holder of a Philippine passport," said Cecilia Rebong, head of the Philippine consulate here.

Rebong's admission put DFA officials on the spot since they had been claiming that the former police senior superintendent was an undocumented alien in the United States.

The Philippines' immigration and passport laws require the DFA to cancel the passport of a fugitive from justice.

Up to this moment, Aquino's passport is still valid, according to Rebong.

Sources at the Philippine consulate told the INQUIRER that Aquino's passport had already been cancelled, but it was recently renewed by the consulate for unknown reasons.

"She has a lot of explaining to do," said the sources, referring to the consul general.

The sources, however, refused to say whether the renewal of Aquino's passport had something to do with the rumors that Malacañang had tried to forge a "tactical alliance" with Lacson in the 2004 elections.

Lacson ran for president in last year's election, which prevented the opposition coalition headed by the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. from unifying the anti-Arroyo forces.

In Manila, Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said the government would extend all possible legal assistance to Aquino in his espionage case.

"We will ensure that his rights are protected," Ebdalin said in an interview, albeit without specifying the kind of assistance being contemplated for now.

The INQUIRER learned from a source that the Philippine consulate in New York had started conferring with New York-based Filipino immigration lawyers and that they were looking into whether the FBI surveillance of Aquino and his subsequent arrest had violated his right to privacy.

Ebdalin could not confirm this pending a report from the consulate, but he said he was confident "they will send somebody" to assist Aquino and that "that's a right his lawyers can invoke." *With a report from Volt Contreras in Manila*

# Imelda: These are all mine, stop auction

From page A1

month of July.

Fe Roa Gimenez, a longtime associate and secretary to the former first lady, was said to have written the note attached to the 151-carat red stone encircled by small diamonds worth $290,000.

It partly explained the provenance of the fabulous collection of jewelry estimated at $10 million seized by the government when the Marcoses fled during a popular revolt in 1986 at the end of a 20-year rule.

Reporters were allowed a rare glimpse yesterday of the treasure trove at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that experts are now examining before a planned sale in November by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG). Proceeds will fund the government's land reform program.

The PCGG is tasked with recovering ill-gotten wealth from the Marcoses. It has so far returned P57.2 billion of the loot to the national coffers.

Marcos, 76, who faces dozens of criminal and civil cases, filed an injunction at the Manila Regional Trial Court yesterday seeking to block the sale of the jewels.

"These are all mine," she said. "Please stop this. This is too much repression." It was ridiculous, Marcos said, for the government to say that she was welcome to buy back the jewelry at auction.

## Amazing

"Amazing, just amazing," said PCCG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede. "I have seen more valuable pieces than these. But those were encased in glass. It's different when you see them up close and know that Mrs. Marcos once wore them."

Abcede showed only part of the Marcos collection—around 400 items confiscated by US Customs when the Marcoses landed in Hawaii after they fled the Philippines.

Some 300 pieces were left behind in Malacañang. Another 60 were seized from Demetriou Roumeliotes, a Greek national, at the Manila airport as he was fleeing the Philippines.

Among the jewels presented by Abcede were two tiaras encrusted in diamonds and pearls that sparkled under the camera lights.

There were also necklaces, watches, earrings, bracelets of rubies, emeralds, jade, gold, diamonds and pearls made by Gucci, Van Cleef and Arpels, Bulgari and Philippe Patek.

A HANDFUL of pieces from the extensive jewelry collection of Imelda Marcos valued at $10 million is presented to the media by the PCGG on Thursday. Ricardo Abcede (right) a PCGG commissioner presides over the glittering presentation. REM ZAMORA

Experts from Christie's inspected the collection later yesterday. Sotheby's and Boham's are scheduled to follow suit. The three international auction houses are bidding for the right to sell the collection.

Two prior attempts to sell the collection fell through because of court cases, bureaucratic red tape and disputes over the venue for the auction.

In 1996, Christie's and Sotheby's valued the Hawaii collection at $2-$2.5 million. Christie's previously inspected the set seized at the Manila airport, the PCGG said, without providing a value.

In 1992, Christie's auctioned off precious silverware and art pieces once owned by the Marcoses. That auction fetched a total of P350 million, Abcede said.

Abcede stressed that they were still talking to "technical people." Once the jewels have been examined, a four-man committee in charge of the disposal of the jewelry will hold discussions with the three auction houses.

Members of the committee are Abcede, Customs Commissioner Alex Arevalo, and Finance Undersecretaries Noel Bonoan and Gabriel Singson Jr.

This is the third time the government is trying to sell the collection. The first attempts were in 1994 and 1996. Abcede said the previous attempts were stymied by court cases related to the jewels and bureaucracy.

He also said Marcos was free to try and stop the auction. "She can file any case. But the way I look at it, the courts will disregard these due to lack of merit. I doubt a TRO will be granted in this case.",

He stressed that local courts had already decided in favor of the government in the case of the Roumeliotes collection. The Honolulu collection was turned over to the government when Marcos signed a compromise agreement in exchange for the dropping of anti-racketeering charges in the United States.

A temporary restraining order was previously issued to stop the sale of the Malacañang collection but this eventually lapsed..

Abcede reiterated the PCGG could not make the auction houses prohibit Marcos or any of her associates from bidding for the pieces. "She will have to part with money. If that is the case, it becomes a concern of the Bureau of Internal Revenue."

He also dismissed suggestions that the jewels should instead be put on public display. Abcede said it would take a long time for the government to recover the cost of the jewels if they were to charge people to view the collection. *With reports from Tina G. Santos and Nikko Dizon, Reuters*

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August 22, 2005

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 19, s-2005

TO : ALL ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES (PROs), PHILHEALTH CENTRAL OFFICE AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

SUBJECT : Reimbursement of Claims for Drugs Listed in the Philippine National Drug Formulary (PNDF) Volume One, Sixth Edition

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Pursuant to Section 37 of Republic Act No. 7875 and PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 265 s.1999 which provides for the use of the latest edition of the PNDF for reimbursement, the said list of drugs shall be implemented as follows:

1. Newly listed drugs and drug preparations that are now included in Sections 16.0 Solutions Correcting Water, Electrolyte, Acid-base and Caloric Disturbances, 17.0 Diagnostic Agents, 18.0 Dermatological and Mucous Membrane Agents (Topical), 19.0 Ophthalmological Preparations, 20.0 Ear, Nose and Throat Preparations, 21.0 Vitamins and Minerals, and 22.0 Disinfectants of the PNDF, Vol. 1, 6th edition, *(please refer to www.philhealth.gov.ph for Annexes 1-7)* shall be compensable for claims with discharge dates starting September 1, 2005.

2. Denial of claims for delisted drugs and drug preparations in the above-mentioned sections and the previous sections of the PNDF 5th edition (Sections 2.0, 7.0, 8.0, 13.0 to 15.0 as per Circular No. 26, s.2004 and Sections 9.0 to 12.0 as per Circular No. 08, s.2005) shall be deferred until December 31, 2005.

3. Claims for drugs listed in the 5th edition of the PNDF (Sections 2.0, 7.0 to 22.0) shall remain compensable for claims with discharge dates until December 31, 2005.

4. For claims with discharge dates starting January 1, 2006, reimbursement for drugs and medicines shall be based solely on the 6th edition of the PNDF, Volume 1.

All other issuances inconsistent with this circular are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III
Officer-in-charge
Office of the President and Chief Executive Officer

# Private donations to fund US lobby firm, says Gonzales

**By Christine O. Avendano**

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER Norberto Gonzales yesterday said the government would use private donations and not public funds to pay for the services of a US law firm he had contracted to lobby for US funding of various government projects, including constitutional amendments proposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Gonzales, under fire from both administration and opposition legislators, clarified that the Baltimore-based law firm Venable LLP was hired primarily to follow up US aid and funding for "mostly ... defense matters" and that money for the Palace bid to amend the 1987 Constitution was just an added item.

Back from a trip abroad, Gonzales told reporters that he was ready to face any congressional inquiry and explain why the government had hired the services of Venable LLP.

Opposition lawmakers had sought an inquiry in Congress upon learning the US law firm would be paid $75,000 a month by the cash-strapped government. They also felt that the contract was tantamount to meddling in the Philippines' internal affairs.

An administration lawmaker said it diminished Philippine sovereignty while the opposition branded it downright treasonous.

Gonzales said the decision to hire a US lobby group came after he brought up to Ms Arroyo the status of aid programs.

"We're looking at certain grants, aids, programs between the two countries, and my own observation is that some of these are not forthcoming when they should be coming already. I thought that we should look into the situation there and the normal practice in the US is that you get a lobby group," he said.

Gonzales said Ms Arroyo and some other members of the Cabinet were aware of the contract and quoted the President as saying "the government could have a lobby group but we should not spend money for this."

Gonzales said he did not know who the donors were as yet because his job was only to "sign the contract and monitor the specifications of the contract."

He said seeking US funding for Charter amendments was added to the contract after representatives of the US law firm asked him whether there were other US grants that Manila wanted.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra called on the government to rescind the contract, saying, "Should we now reword the Constitution so it would begin like: 'We, the sovereign Filipino people, imploring the aid of Uncle Sam...,'" he added.

# Sweet smell of . . .

From page A1

the Department of Agriculture yesterday announced plans to plant 22,000 hectares to durian and 30,000 hectares to bananas within 10 years.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban announced the proposed durian and banana explosion during the Mindanao Fruit Industry Conference in Cagayan de Oro City.

He said the plan, contained in the Southern Philippines Road Map for fruits, would help boost the country's exports, particularly from Mindanao, which had shown much potential in the development of its fruit industry.

Mindanao was the biggest producer of fruits last year, accounting for almost 70 percent of the country's total food production and contributing $503 million from exports, according to DA data.

## Key to growth

"The department always believes that exports hold the key to sustainable economic growth," Panganiban told the Mindanao Fruit Industry Council and the Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industries of Northern Mindanao during the conference.

"Let me assure you that under my watch, your industry will be assured of the DA's all-out support on all fronts," he said, adding that the government would facilitate market opportunities in the European Union and other countries for the banana chips and fresh fruits products.

The durian, which is known for its pungent smell but sweet taste, is a relatively new phenomenon in Philippine agriculture.

Its commercial production started only 10 years ago.

In 1998, only an estimated 17,000 hectares were planted to durian.

Most of the durian produce is consumed domestically as fresh fruits, while the rest is processed into ice cream, candies, jams and juice.

Durian accounted for a "small and irregular" portion of exports in the late 1990s, contributing a measly $32,600 annually, according to the Philippine Fruit Network.

Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia are the world's leading producers of durian. In the Philippines, the leading producers are Southern Mindanao, Western Visayas, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Central Mindanao and Caraga.

## Cluster approach

Panganiban said the DA would adopt the cluster approach used in most of Southeast Asia for the fruit industry, similar to what the government employed for the rice and corn industry.

"I am confident that by using the cluster approach, we would be equally, if not more, successful in this endeavor," he said.

He said the DA was willing to provide cold chain facilities to help fruit exporters, especially those from Mindanao where there is much potential but little capital for farming.

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## The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# Suicide bomber kills 16 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—A SUICIDE BOMBER KILLED 16 IN Baghdad on Thursday, a day after a wave of similar attacks left 150 dead and al-Qaida's frontman in Iraq Abu Musab al-Zarqawi declared all-out war on the country's Shiite Muslims.

Ten policemen were among the dead in the rush-hour attack in the southern district of Dura that targeted an emergency response police patrol team. Twenty-one people were wounded.

Another eight people were killed in other attacks across the country including four policemen and three Shiite pilgrims who were gunned down as they were walking from Baghdad to the holy city of Karbala.

A Shiite *imam* or religious leader was killed and three people wounded when a bomb blew up near the gate to the Rowdha Al-Wadi mosque in the main northern city of Mosul, police said.

Three unidentified bullet-riddled bodies were also discovered in the north of the capital.

The latest wave of unrest followed the deadliest day of attacks in Baghdad on Wednesday since the US-led invasion against Saddam Hussein's regime in March 2003.

Zarqawi's group claimed responsibility for the wave of car bombs, saying they were in revenge for a US-Iraqi crackdown on insurgents in the northern town of Tal Afar, near the Syrian border.

Zarqawi, a Jordanian-born Sunni extremist who is Iraq's most wanted man with a 25 million dollar bounty on his head, also declared "all-out war" on Iraq's majority Shiites, according to an audiotape posted on the Internet.

Shiite civilians have been increasingly targeted by Sunni insurgents as hardliners within the ousted elite vent their anger on the long oppressed majority that now leads the government.

"Any religious group that wants to be safe from the blows of the *mujahedeen* (holy warriors) must (disavow) the government of (Shiite Prime Minister Ibrahim) Jaafari and its crimes. Otherwise it will suffer the same fate as that of the crusaders," according to the tape, whose authenticity could not be verified.

The term crusaders refers to the occupying US-led forces that ousted president Saddam Hussein in 2003 and which back the Jaafari government.

Zarqawi's group the al-Qaida Organization in the Land of Two Rivers is considered responsible for some of the most spectacular attacks in Iraq as well as the kidnapping and beheading of hostages.

ZARQAWI REUTERS

Britain's The Times newspaper, quoting an unnamed US intelligence officer, said that Zarqawi has placed insurgent groups in Baghdad under his command.

"We have got reason to believe that al-Zarqawi has now been given tactical command in the city over groups that have had to merge under him for the sake of survival," the official said.

An intelligence summary cited by The Times said that of an estimated 16,000 Sunni insurgents, 6,700 were hardcore Islamic fundamentalists supplemented by 4,000 members after an amalgamation with Jaysh Muhammad—formerly an insurgent group loyal to Saddam's ousted Baathist regime.

A US military spokesperson in Baghdad, Lieutenant-Colonel Steven Boylan, acknowledged that the rebels remained capable of spiking the level of their attacks.

"They have the ability to cause a spectacular event at the time and place of their chosing," but "this does not mean that everything has turned in a bad way," he said.

"The louder he (Zarqawi) yells, the more trouble he's in."

Several Western officials suggested Wednesday's attacks were indeed in response to the offensive in Tal Afal.

"We've seen similar spikes in Baghdad when they have been attacks in other cities in the past, specifically Fallujah," said one.

"It's very clear Zarqawi wants to create a sectarian war," he also said, adding that it was important that both the government and the Shiite majority showed restraint "so this does not become a civil war." Another Western official suggested that, even though this was the first time Zarqawi had openly called for all-out war, the country was "already to some extent in a civil war situation." In the face of the attacks, US President George W. Bush and close ally British Prime Minister Tony Blair, in New York for a UN summit and the General Assembly, pledged to "see the job through" in Iraq.

*AFP*

# *Watchdog slams US forces for media deaths in Iraq*

NEW YORK—A MEDIA WATCHDOG criticized the US military on Wednesday for consistently failing to investigate the killing of journalists in Iraq by its forces, and said the Pentagon was losing credibility as a result.

The report by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, or CPJ, said US troops had killed 13 journalists since the US-led war started in March 2003, and at least 40 other reporters had been killed in the conflict.

"Several of the 13 deaths suggest indifference by US soldiers to the presence of civilians, including members of the press," the CPJ said in a statement.

The report also examined the deaths of 21 media support staff who were killed in Iraq, two by US forces.

It said that in most cases, the US military had either failed to investigate journalists' deaths or it had not made its inquiries public.

Pentagon spokesman Eric Ruff said he had not seen the report, but rejected the CPJ charges in response to questions from Reuters.

"The US military investigates every credible report of a journalist's death in which US forces may have been involved.

To suggest otherwise simply does not reflect the facts," Ruff said.

"The findings from the few investigations that have been released have not credibly addressed questions of accountability for shooting deaths, and whether US forces are taking necessary measures to differentiate between combatants and civilians in conflict areas," the report said.

In the most recent case, Reuters soundman Waleed Khaled was shot by US forces as he was driving with a colleague on an assignment. The US military has said the action of its troops was "appropriate" in the August incident.

Reuters cameraman Haider Kadhem, 24, like Waleed an Iraqi, was slightly wounded but survived in the passenger seat of the car, only to be detained for three days by US troops.

The CPJ report said the US military had not yet published its report on that incident.

"By failing to account for all shooting deaths and demonstrate that it is taking steps to avoid future tragedies, the US military shows an alarming disregard for the safety of civilians, including journalists covering this conflict," CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper said.

"As far as we know the military has conducted full investigations into only a handful of incidents and made public its reports on just two of them. With such a record the Pentagon needs to address its own serious credibility problem by showing some accountability and by providing real answers to outstanding questions about these shocking deaths."

*Reuters*

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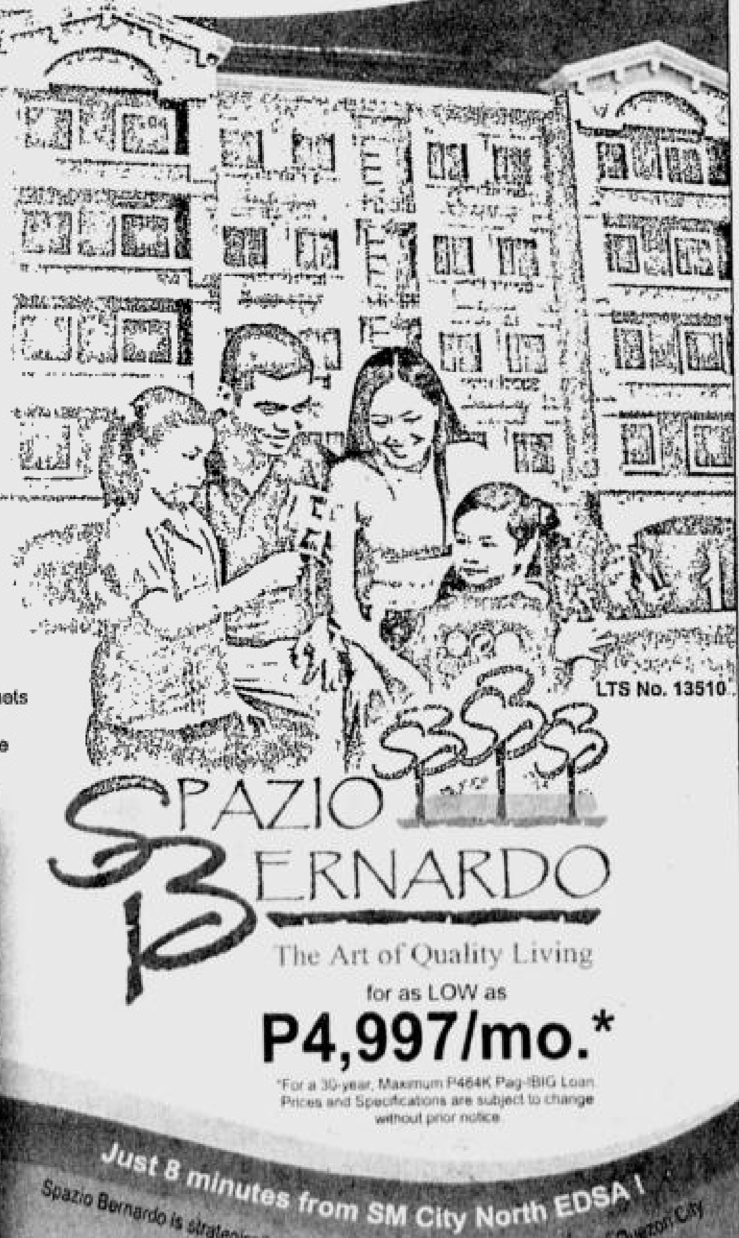

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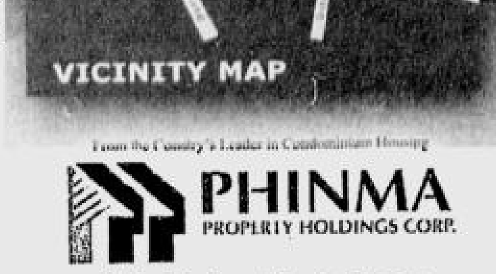

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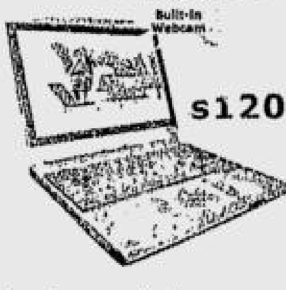

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# Ophelia batters hurricane-weary US

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA—Hurricane Ophelia lashed the US state of North Carolina on Wednesday leaving floods, cutting power to about 100,000 people and renewing storm fears in a country still numbed by the impact of Hurricane Katrina.

The North Carolina governor declared a state of emergency and pleaded with the public to heed evacuation orders as the seventh hurricane of the Atlantic storm season strengthened and moved along the coast of the southeastern state.

With its eye about 32 km off the coast, the storm was lashing it with winds of about 135 km an hour, according to the US National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Authorities said the winds had already torn down power lines, cutting electricity to an estimated 100,000 people in North Carolina. Weather experts said that flooding which started during the day could get worse.

Ophelia was moving so slowly, about 11 km an hour, that it could buffet the state for two days before easing off, said Gov. Mike Easley.

Many inhabitants on the Outer Banks holiday islands off North Carolina headed for shelters on the mainland as powerful winds and torrential rain pounded their wooden homes.

With US authorities still reeling from criticism over the slow reaction to Katrina on Aug. 29, Easley told the public: "If you have not heeded the warning before, let me be clear right now: Ophelia is a dangerous storm that is likely to cause flooding from storm surge in rivers and sounds."

The federal government, which has felt the political backlash from Katrina, took no chances.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had about 250 specialist workers in the state already, the governor said. The National Guard had also sent a force of about 50 troops to the areas considered most at risk.

The Homeland Security Department said several hundred trailers of water and ice and dozens of trailers of emergency meals had been prepositioned in several states around North Carolina.

It said the Defense Department had also put troops and specialist engineers on alert to take part in any emergency operation and extra medical teams had also been warned.

Easley said there could be a storm surge of up to 3.3 m and 25 cm of rain in a few hours as well as hurricane force winds.

Katrina threw up a storm surge of 7.6 m in some places along the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29. More than 700 people have already been confirmed dead in Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Alabama, and the search for bodies is ongoing. *AFP*

# Study: Norvasc cuts heart deaths

NEW YORK—Results of the landmark Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial (Ascot) showed that patients with high blood pressure and additional cardiovascular risk factors who received a treatment regimen based on Pfizer's calcium channel blocker Norvasc (amlodipine besylate) experienced significant reductions in cardiovascular death, all-cause mortality and other cardiovascular events, including heart attacks and strokes, compared to patients who received a standard beta-blocker-based regimen.

Patients receiving the Norvasc-based regimen experienced a reduction in the primary endpoint (fatal coronary heart disease and nonfatal heart attack) which did not reach statistical significance due to the trial stopping earlier than expected. The final results of Ascot confirmed the Data Safety and Monitoring Board decision to stop the trial early.

"The results of ASCOT clearly demonstrate that a Norvasc-based antihypertensive regimen can reduce the risk of cardiovascular death and a broad range of cardiovascular events in patients with hypertension who have additional risk factors," said Professor Peter Sever, Ascot principle investigator, clinical pharmacology and therapeutics, International Centre for Circulatory Health at London's Imperial College.

The five-year Ascot study, which was one of the largest hypertension trials ever conducted, involved over 19,000 patients in Europe who had high blood pressure.

The trial compared the cardiovascular effects of a Norvasc-based regimen versus a standard beta-blocker-based regimen in reducing cardiac events in patients with hypertension and multiple cardiovascular risk factors.

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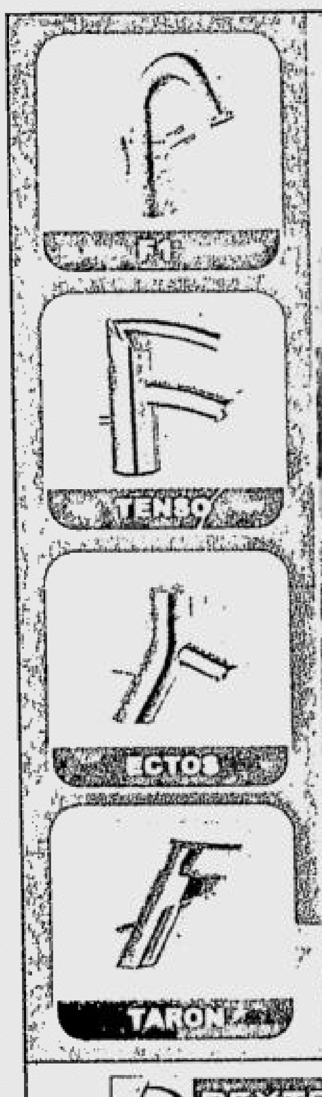

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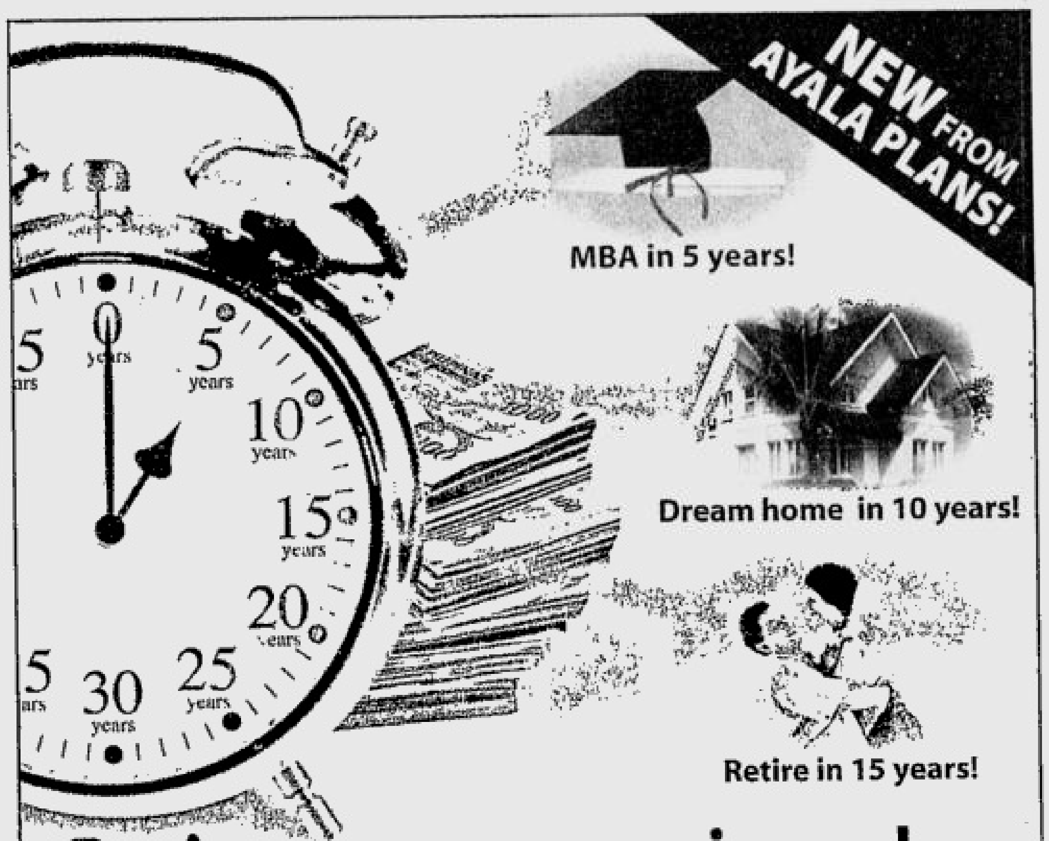

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# Bush presidency defined by 3 crises

By Ron Fournier

WASHINGTON—IT'S AUGUST IN CRAWFORD, Texas, and President George W. Bush is on vacation. His poll ratings are slumping. He hears warnings of a looming crisis that will soon change the course of his presidency.

Is this August 2001? Or August 2005?

The answer is both. Historians ultimately will judge Bush's presidency based on his leadership through two tragedies—the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and Hurriçane Katrina—plus a conflict of his own design: The war in Iraq.

Katrina's lethal aftermath revealed that the Bush administration did not learn valuable lessons from the 2001 attacks about responding to disasters. As for the president himself, since the Sept. 11 terror strikes Bush seems to have lost his touch for connecting with an anxious public.

GEORGE W. Bush (right) and first lady Laura Bush
REUTERS

"This is someone who has staked his presidency on strong leadership through crises, and now he has faced three major challenges," said Charles Franklin, a University of Wisconsin political science professor. "Sept. 11 fundamentally altered what this administration is going to be remembered for, which is the response to terrorism, the Iraq war and now, obviously, Katrina and the aftermath."

The Iraq war is linked to both Sept. 11 and Katrina, a bridge of sorts between the two crises. It began as part of the Sept. 11-inspired war on terror and now competes with the Gulf of Mexico coastal disaster for money, manpower and public support.

Back in August 2001, Bush was seven months into his presidency and trying to figure out why his job approval rating had declined since his inauguration by up to 10 percentage points. Voters still knew little about Bush and were getting restless.

On Aug. 6, he was given a secret document warning that al-Qaida hoped to attack the United States with hijacked airplanes. Delivered to his Texas ranch, the memo referred to evidence of terrorists possibly casing buildings in New York.

Critics now accuse Bush of not making terrorism a priority before Sept. 11. Supporters say he could not have prevented the attacks.

Either way, Bush's initial response to the strikes was shaky, personified by a grim-faced address to the nation that night. He quickly gained his footing and won favor with Americans when he stood atop a charred fire truck in New York and vowed vengeance.

That bullhorn-waving event occurred four years ago Wednesday.

Bush could use a defining moment like that now. Katrina caught him flatflooted in Texas. He seemed slow at the levers of power and took more than two weeks to acknowledge his own responsibility for the government's sluggish response.

Then came this stunning concession from Bush: Four years after Sept. 11, Katrina makes him wonder whether the country is ready for the next terrorist strike.

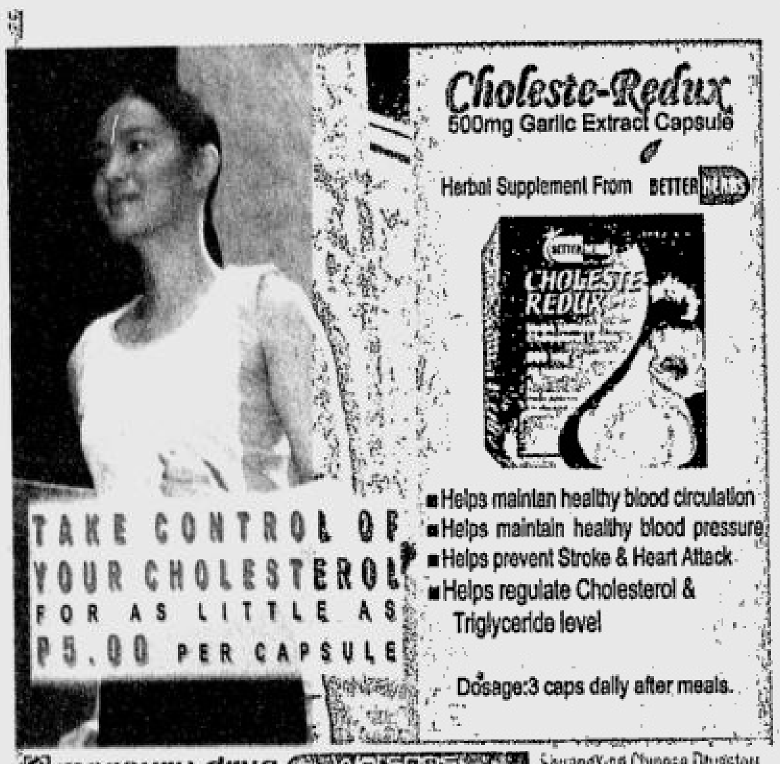
"Are we capable of dealing with a severe attack? That's a very important question and it's in the national interest that we find out what went on so we can better respond," he said.

Several members of the nonpartisan commission that investigated the lead-up to Sept. 11 said it looks like little has changed in federal disaster planning since the attacks on New York and the Pentagon. A Senate Republican, Susan Collins of Maine, said the Katrina response was plagued by confusion, communications failures and widespread lack of coordination—all of which should have been dealt with by expensive post-Sept. 11 changes.

This could become Bush's legacy. According to various independent polls:

- Two-thirds of the public think he could have done more to help Katrina's victims. More than half say he deserves blame for the slow response.
- Fewer than half say Bush has strong leadership qualities, down from 63 percent in October 2004.
- More than half say they don't trust Bush's judgment in a crisis.

AP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| | |
|---|---|
| 2 cups | rice |
| 1 Tbsp | cooking oil |
| 1 Tbsp | achuete seeds |
| 2 cloves | garlic, mashed |
| 1 tsp | ginger, minced |
| 1 tsp | ground pepper |
| 1/4 tsp | salt |
| 1 Tbsp | **Silver Swan soy sauce** |
| 2 Tbsp | spring onion, chopped |
| 4 cups | coconut milk |
| 1 small | pack raisins |
| 1 pc | egg, cooked as omelet |
| 1/4 cup | peanuts, fried without skin |
| 1 Tbsp | spring onion, chopped |

Procedure:

1. Wash the rice and drain. Set aside.
2. Heat oil in a pan, stir fry achuete until color is well blended with the oil. Remove seeds. Sauté garlic and ginger.
3. Add the rice, season with pepper, salt and **Silver Swan soy sauce.** Toss mixture until the rice is well coated with the achuete-colored oil. Add 2 Tbsp spring onion.
4. Add the coconut milk cream and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, add the raisins and simmer until cooked.
5. Roll the egg omelet and cut into strips.
6. Garnish the cooked rice with peanuts, spring onion and egg strips before serving. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

| Energy | Pro | Fat | CHO | Ca | P | Fe | VitA | VitB1 | VitB2 | VitB3 | VitC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | 34 | 50 | 35 | 9 | 43 | 13 | 11 | 15 | 15 | 37 | 3 |

A serving meets more than one third of the recommended intake for energy, protein and carbohydrates. It is also a good source of phosphorus and niacin.

SEAFOOD-MANGO SALAD

| | |
|---|---|
| 100g | shrimps |
| 1/4 kg | tahong clams |
| 100 g | lettuce, cut into 3" lengths |
| 1 pc | tomato, sliced |
| 1 pc | white onion, sliced thinly in half-moon shape |
| 1 pc | ripe mango, sliced into strips |

Dressing:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 Tbsp | **Silver Swan sukang puti** |
| 2 Tbsp | cooking oil |
| 1 Tbsp | white sugar |
| 1/2 tsp | salt |
| 1/4 tsp | ground pepper |
| 1/4 tsp | paprika |
| 1/4 tsp | rosemary (optional) |

Procedure:

1. Steam the tahong and shrimps. When cooked, remove shells from tahong and shrimps. Set aside.
2. In a salad bowl, combine the shrimps and tahong with the lettuce, tomato, and onions. Top with ripe mango strips.
3. Combine dressing ingredients in a bottle. Shake vigorously to blend well.
4. Before serving, pour dressing on salad ingredients and toss gently. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

| Energy | Pro | Ca | P | Fe | VitA | VitB1 | VitB2 | VitB3 | VitC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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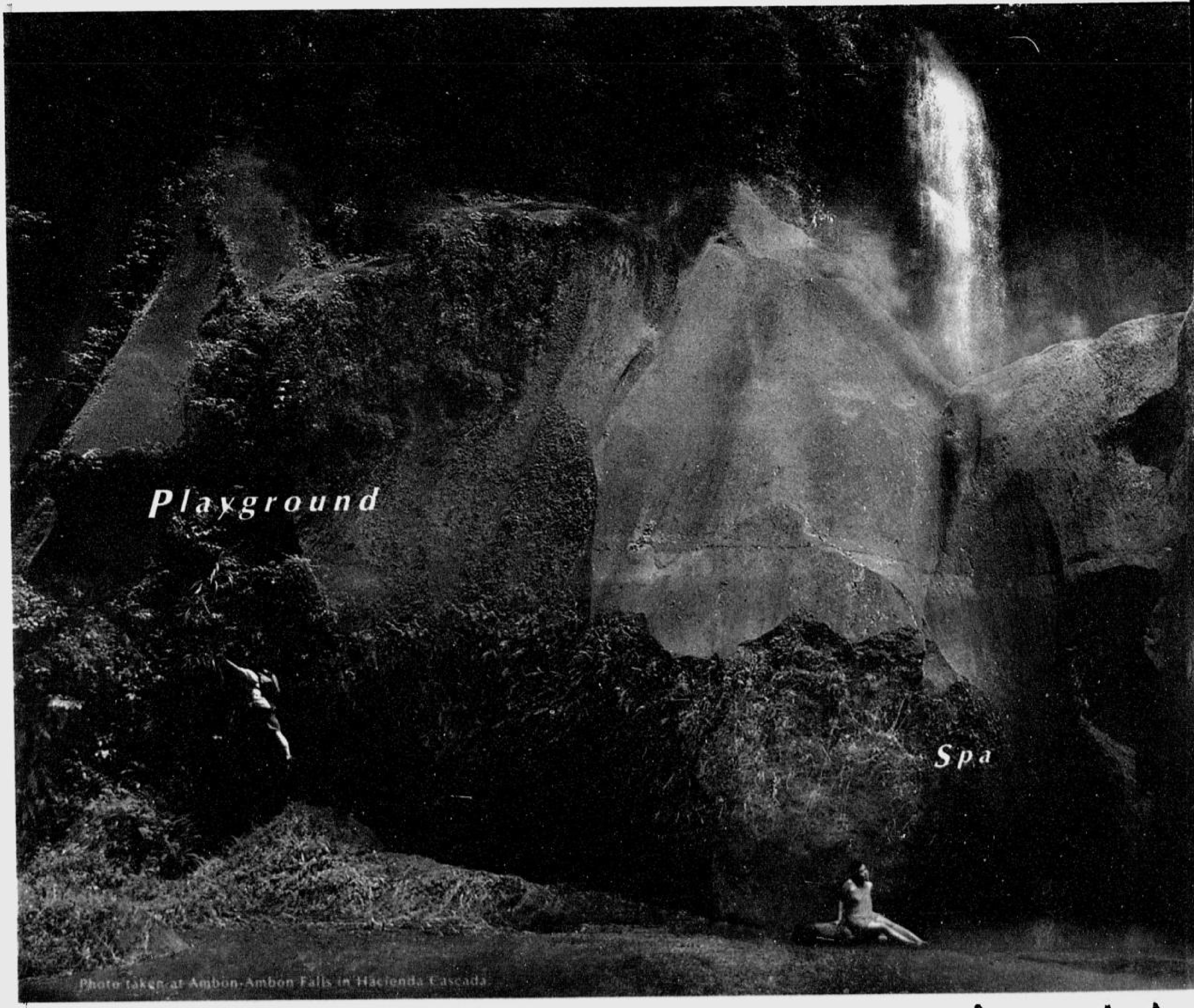

Photo taken at Ambon-Ambon Falls in Hacienda Cascada

# Director Robert Wise dies at 91

**WISE**

SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN—ROBERT WISE, director of top Hollywood musicals "West Side Story" and "The Sound of Music," died overnight at his Los Angeles home, days after his 91st birthday, an official of the San Sebastian film festival said Thursday.

The death of Wise cast a pall over the festival, which was scheduled to pay a special homage to the director who also made "Star Trek, the Motion Picture" and collaborated closely with Orson Welles.

The official said Wise's wife Mellicent, who had been in San Sebastian to present the retrospective of his work, had left for Los Angeles.

Born at Winchester in Indiana on Sept. 10, 1914, Wise joined the movie industry in 1933 and by six years later had become one of Hollywood's leading film editors.

He worked on Welles's "Citizen Kane" and "The Magnificent Ambersons," as well as Daniel Dieterle's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "The Devil and Daniel Webster."

"West Side Story", which he co-directed with Jerome Robbins and won 11 Oscars, and "The Sound of Music" were smash-hit musicals, along with the lesser-known "Star."

Wise also had a penchant for war movies, with "The Desert Rats," "Run Silent, Run Deep" and "The Sand Pebbles," and science fiction, making "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and "The Andromeda Strain" before "Star Trek." *AFP*

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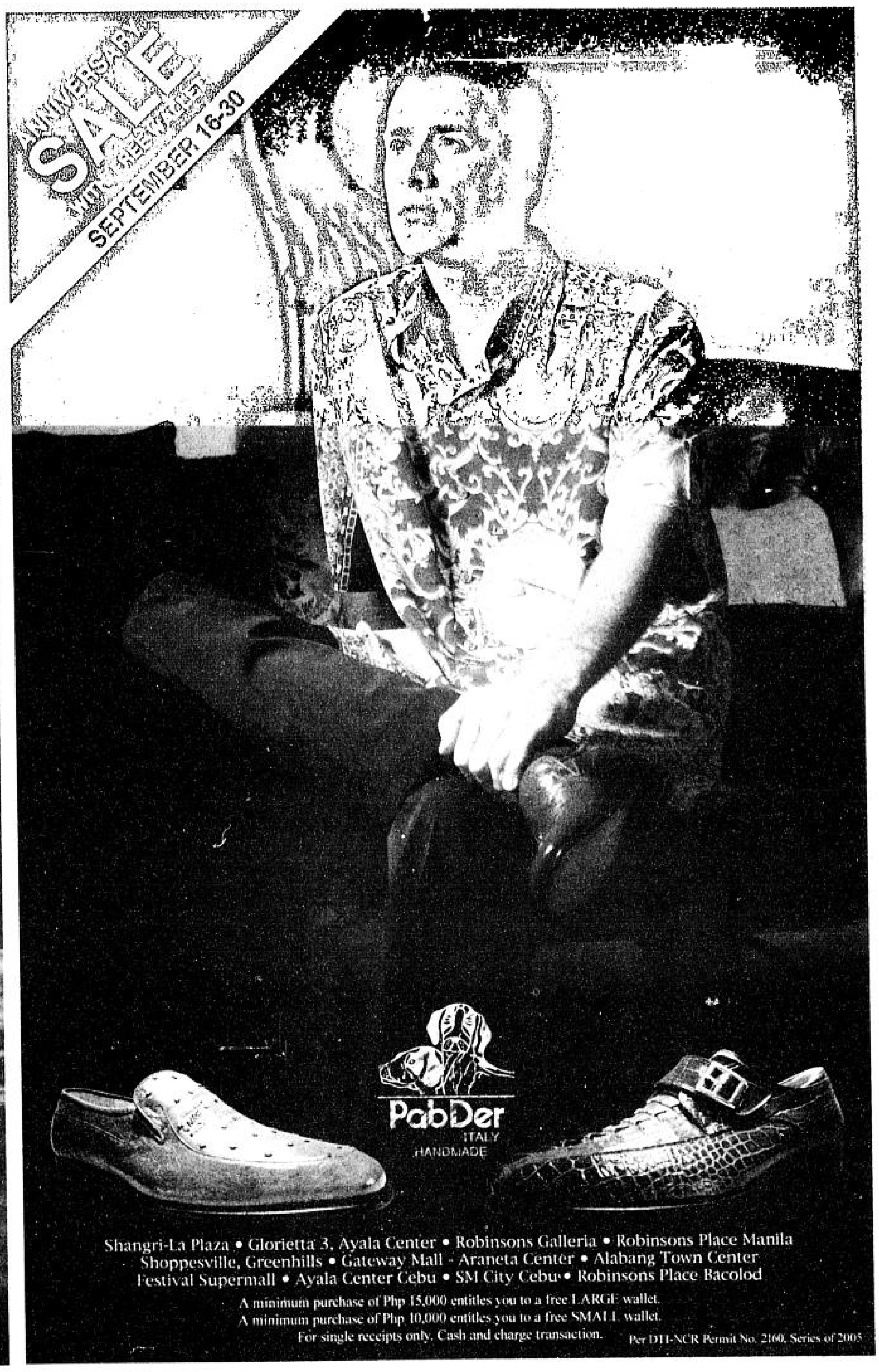

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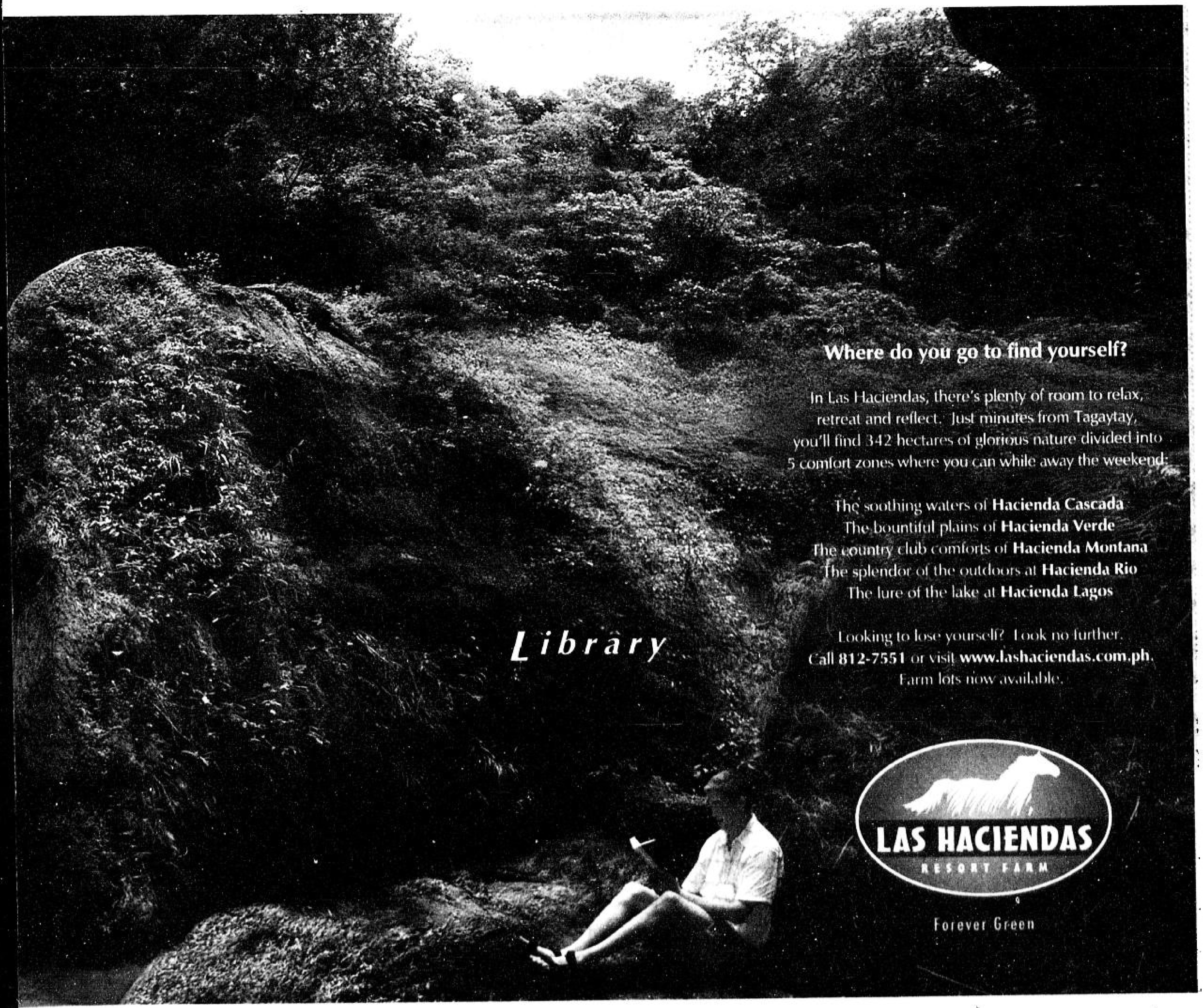

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**EDITORIALS**

# Cloak and dagger

SEN. PANFILO LACSON IS FEELING UNEASY THESE days. The arrest of Michael Ray Aquino—once a close associate of his at the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission—in the United States for espionage seems to have put him in the line of fire. And apparently, the senator expects the Arroyo administration to link him to the case. "The government officials' statements seem headed in my direction," he said.

Indeed, the President's men, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez among them, were quick to provide basis for his anxiety. Gonzalez hinted that the alleged espionage might have a connection with the political opposition's efforts to unseat the President. But given Gonzalez's penchant for making knee-jerk remarks, he would be the wrong person to lend credibility to Lacson's claim that Malacañang would link him to the espionage yarn.

To be sure, however, Lacson's possible connection to Aquino's alleged espionage in the United States has been in the back of the mind of any one who follows the news. But people are giving the senator and the opposition the benefit of the doubt, and Lacson should not preempt the outcome of the inquiry by American authorities. He should not risk politicizing the issue.

But trust Lacson—or any Filipino politician for that matter—to consider an alarming development in purely personalistic terms.

# Friend or foe?

BUT WHILE WE MAY SUSPEND JUDGMENT ON the role of the senator (or any other Filipino) in the meantime, we cannot ignore the security and geopolitical implications of what has happened. Aquino, who fled to the United States to escape charges linking him to the murder of publicist Bubby Dacer during the Estrada presidency, is alleged to have received classified documents from a Federal Bureau of Investigation intelligence analyst, Leandro Aragoncillo, a Filipino-American who has also been arrested. More specifically, Aquino received intelligence materials that were the product of American espionage on the Philippines, particularly against the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

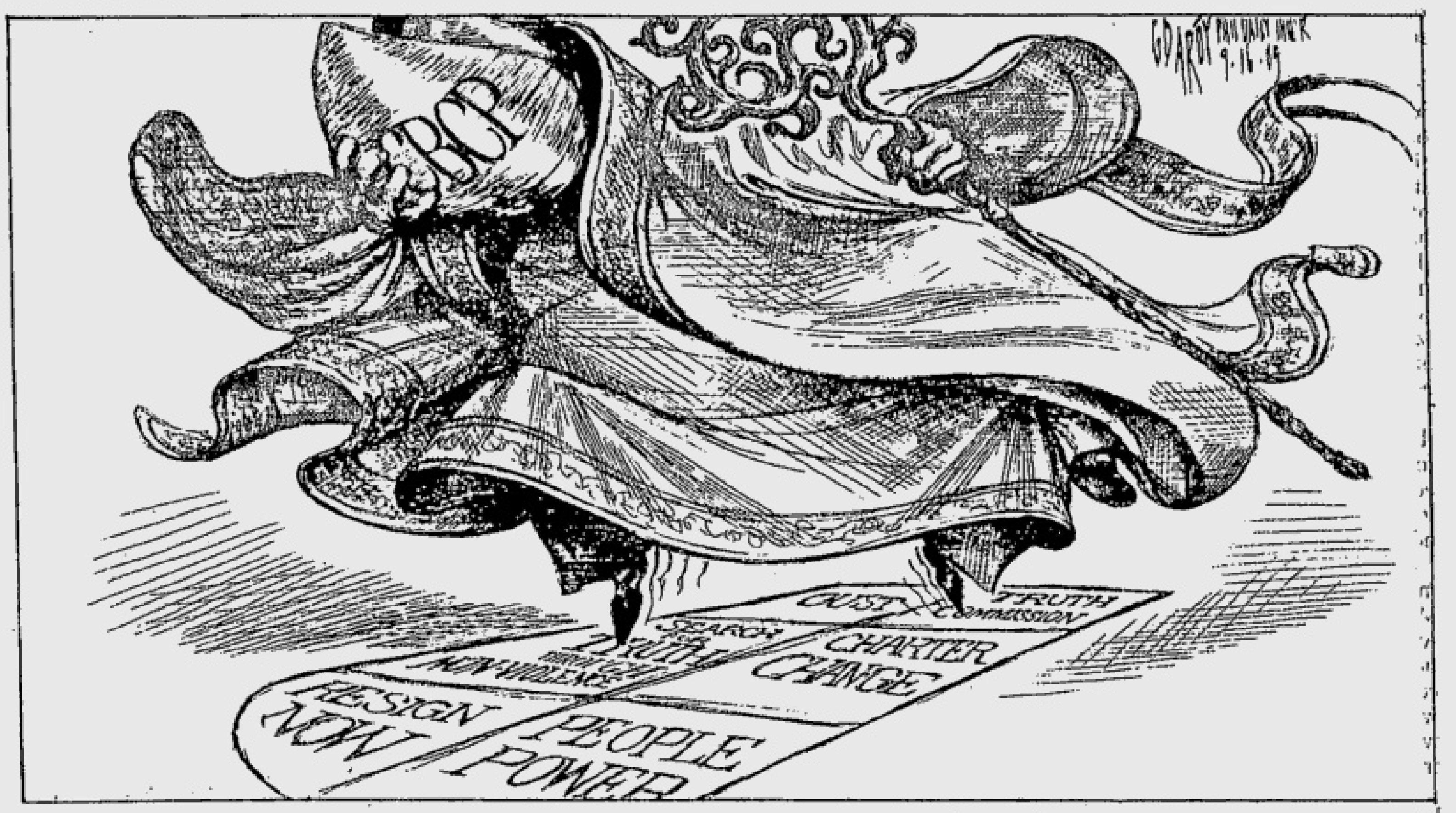
Ironically enough, all of these developments are taking place as the President is in New York to preside over a meeting of the United Nations Security Council. Thus, the episode is not essentially an embarrassment for Lacson—at least not at first blush. It is an embarrassment for Washington and Manila.

Manila's responses to the incident have been rather lame, even apologetic. We don't know if Gonzalez was in one of his more vacuous, dense moods when he wrote the US Justice Department to provide the Philippines "more complete information" about the espionage case as the documents could be "detrimental to our government." Perhaps, Gonzalez worded the letter mildly in a bid to be diplomatic. In meetings with reporters, he explained that the documents could be linked to "current destabilization moves in the country."

But exactly because the classified materials are "spied" information, they could open a Pandora's box and destabilize and damage the government and the nation. As such, a sterner message should have been delivered to the US government: The Philippines will not tolerate espionage conducted against its officials by a country which claims to be an ally and a friend!

It behooves Washington to come clean on the nature of the classified documents that Aquino has allegedly obtained from the FBI. It should as well explain why it spied—if indeed it did—on a friendly state, nay, an ally on the same level as a Nato country, if we are to believe US President George W. Bush when he hailed the Philippines as such after Ms Arroyo expressed her full support for the US war on terrorism. Why then was the FBI collecting information about the Philippine government—information that may have become fodder for the opposition's continued challenge and quest to topple the administration?

Unless Washington makes a credible explanation, Filipinos will have to brace themselves for further shocks in a shadow play that has become more and more shadowy. It's a play right out of the pages of a John Le Carre or Len Deighton novel. Except that this one's for real.



# GMA'S many secret deals

## As I See It

*Neal H. Cruz*

LIKE FAUSTUS MAKING DEALS WITH THE Devil (except that the roles in this modern version have been reversed), President Macapagal-Arroyo seems to be desperately proposing deals in order to stay in Malacañang. Rep. Imee Marcos revealed that it was an emissary of GMA who went to her mother to tempt her with the offer to bury the late President Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in exchange for the support of the Marcos forces. A little bird told me that two emissaries (both named Mike) of GMA went separately to Tanay to offer President Estrada temporary freedom in exchange for the votes of his congressmen against impeachment.

The bird said Little Mike (Defensor), like a snake in the paradise that is Erap's Tanay estate, tempted the detained President with the offer of freedom on bail or on recognizance if he would order the congressmen of his party not to vote for impeachment. Much as he wanted freedom, Erap resisted the temptation, the bird added.

Then Big Brother Mike (Velarde) also went to Tanay and made the same offer, the bird continued. This time, all Erap was asked to do was shake hands with GMA on stage, in full view of the public, during the El Shaddai prayer-rally at the Luneta. Obviously, the purpose was to give the impression to the public that the two presidents had reconciled. Erap reportedly told Brother Mike that he would think about it. Actually, he didn't want to be within spitting distance of GMA.

On the night of the rally, instead of going direct to the site, Erap had his car parked at the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, where he stayed while waiting for GMA to leave. GMA waited and waited for him, eager to show the people that she and Erap had become friends, but she was forced to leave when it became clear the latter was not going to show up while she was there.

After she left, an Erap aide in the rally phoned him that the coast was clear, and Erap went to the Luneta and delivered his speech to the wild cheers of the throng. That was why GMA stayed at the rally much longer than the time allotted to her (she was waiting for the President she deposed illegally) and Erap promptly showed up, as if by coincidence, after she had left.

"I have already been detained more than four years," the bird quoted Erap, "and I am confident the Sandiganbayan would grant me bail as I have already proven many times that I am not a flight risk. Besides, the evidence against me are very weak. I only have to wait a few more months to be free, but the people will curse me forever, even long after I'm dead, if I make a deal and reconcile with her."

Nevertheless, the detained President still has a generous heart for her—and has not lost his sense of humor.

"If GMA is detained like me," (this is still the bird talking) "she is welcome to stay here (in the Tanay estate). I have the right horse for her use." And one day, he allegedly showed the bird two saddled horses. "We can ride together around the estate," he said. "I will use the big horse and she can use the other one." The other one was a tiny Shetland pony.

* * *

**It is either the policy or a habit of the GMA administration to make deals and spend money recklessly behind the backs of the taxpayers footing the bill. The contract with the American lobby firm Venable to lobby the US Congress to fund and support a Charter change in the Philippines is just the latest of these secret deals. There may be others that are still undiscovered.**

**Despite the claim of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales (the man who signed the deal) that the contract is "legal," many lawyers say it is illegal and that Gonzales—and whoever authorized him—are liable criminally. The Philippines will pay Venable $75,000 (that's in dollars, approximately more than P4 million) a month. There is no such appropriation in the budget. Spending funds without appropriation is illegal.**

**Gonzales is National Security Adviser. What is he doing meddling with a political exercise like Charter change?**

**And what is the concern of the United States in changing the Constitution of the Philippines? Isn't that meddling in the sovereignty of another nation? The Constitution is a sacred document of any nation, like the Bible, so why are we allowing another country to meddle in ours? For doing what he did, Gonzales is hewing dangerously close to treason.**

**But it is not difficult to surmise why the United States is interested in our Constitution.**

**A new Constitution will open our country to exploitation by American carpetbaggers under the guise of "investments." Our lands and natural resources are reserved only for Filipinos under the present Constitution. But a new Constitution, written under the supervision of the Pangalatok twins (Fidel Ramos and Jose de Venecia) will open up the country to Americans, just like what the Parity Law did years ago.**

**What this means is that Filipinos will be deprived of their birthright in favor of foreigners. They won't be able to acquire lands for their farms and homes. They won't be able to afford them as prices shoot up because the foreigners would be snapping them up.**

**Foreigners would dig up our mountains for mineral ores, raze the forests for their timber, deplete our seas by overfishing, and bankrupt Filipino business corporations that would not be able to compete with the giant American firms.**

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Guests at next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila are Rep. Imee Marcos, vice-presidential candidate Loren Legarda, and Rep. Rodolfo Plaza. Topic: What else?

# Banishing politics from the Edsa Shrine

## Passion for Reason

*Raul C. Pangalangan*

WHEN MMDA CHAIR BAYANI FERNANDO tells pro-impeachment protesters to leave Edsa and regroup instead at the wide road leading to White Plains, he relies on the constitutional law on "time, manner and place" (TMP) regulations. When Church authorities ban political activities from the Edsa Shrine, they invoke their rights as private property owners, and summon not the mandate of heaven but the power of Caesar. In both instances, it is shown that a law that is constitutional "on its face" can still be unconstitutional "as applied."

The Constitution says: "No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech…or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances."

The regulatory power (or "police power" as it has calcified in old school legalese) is greater when the regulation of speech is "content-neutral," i.e., when the regulation has nothing to do with the message of the speaker. Rally permits must be given whether or not the rallyists love President Macapagal-Arroyo. Under the Bill of Rights, the state may not consider the street protesters' cause or take into account the politics they espouse. Except when violence is imminent, government has no business saying what may or may not be uttered.

TMP regulations are the quintessential example. Government's only legitimate concerns are limited to time ("Will the rally cause traffic at 5 p.m.?"), manner ("Will their leaflets litter a park?"), and place ("Are they too close to a school or hospital?"). Conversely, rally permits are never totally denied, but only rescheduled, reconfigured, or relocated. Rallies are particularly vulnerable to TMP because the "speech" element (i.e., the message) is often dwarfed by the "non-speech" element (i.e., the traffic, litter or noise).

Fernando's threshold legal problem is that Edsa is a public road and, legally and historically, has served as a "public forum" much like Plaza Miranda of old. The public forum exception, when triggered, raises the bar for constitutionality. It is no longer enough that the regulation be content-neutral. Regulation must also be narrowly-tailored to avoid collateral damage to speech and must "leave open ample alternative channels for communication." Fernando has cleared that bar. Why block Metro Manila's main artery and paralyze traffic within a 20 kilometer radius, when you can simply divert the rallyists to the side road adjacent to the People Power Monument?

His real problem is that the People Power Monument is part of the People Power message. The place has symbolic meaning. That symbol is inseparable from the message. For instance, the Supreme Court has upheld an anti-US military bases rally in front on the US Embassy, and not in the Rizal football stadium as the city government had wished. There as in Edsa, the "place" was part of the message, and shifting the venue would not be a content-neutral TMP regulation.

The Edsa Shrine is actually an even more difficult case. Over the years, church authorities have blown hot and cold on whether the area can be used for political protests, and fully-armed police have indulged the owners' wishes. Not quite right. The property rights of the owner are limited to the property itself, but cannot extend to the adjacent sidewalk, which is either outside the property line, or is subject to an "easement" for public use. One of those allowable uses is for freedom of assembly, in which case we are back to Fernando's "public forum" conundrum.

Just like the Monument, the Shrine is also a symbol of the 1986 upheaval; therein, place is the symbolic message. In our nation's life, the classic example of symbolic speech was when the Katipuneros shred their *cedulas* at Pugad Lawin. Their message: We defy colonial control. Their act: Tearing a piece of paper. That symbol was unique to its moment—but meaningless to ours. Try tearing up your *cedula* today, and the only message you convey is that you want to line up at City Hall all over again—and pay.

But the Shrine presents a unique problem. It is not a secular emblem, but a place of religious worship. Freedom of speech is special in constitutional law, but even more special is the "free exercise" clause. Worshippers can claim that their access to their church is cramped, or that their rituals are hampered by the noise, or the solemnity desecrated by the tension outside.

Nothing trumps religious freedom. Except, that is, when Church authorities themselves furnish the exception: they had welcomed politics before. How many times has the Shrine hosted supposedly spiritual gatherings with overt political activities? When the Shrine's clergymen allow some speech and ban others, why lend the sword of Caesar to enforce religious caprice? Constitutional law calls it the test of "good faith belief." In a martial law-era case, the high court stopped anti-Marcos forces who converged in, of all places, St. Jude Thaddeus Church (right next door to Malacañang) during Mass to protest! (The protesters should have claimed they needed St. Jude, patron of desperate and impossible causes! Serves them right for not being true believers.)

Filipinos live their baser selves in politics, their nobler selves in faith. Hence the never-ending campaign to seize spiritual emblems to wage earthly battles. The lawyer-poet Archibald MacLeish said: "An age becomes an age … when sensuous poets in their pride invent emblems for the soul's consent …. It perishes when [symbols], though seen, No longer mean." How long before Edsa will cease to mean?

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

# Islam as a tool of modernization

## COMMENTARY

*Ooi Kee Beng*

A BIG WORRY IN IRAQ AND THE WIDER MIDDLE East is that Islam and modernization are enemies. But Malaysian history over the past three decades shows that this belief is mistaken. In fact, Islamization has proved to be an effective political means of reconciling the majority of Malays to the country's rapid economic development.

In the early 1970s, when it was still an overwhelmingly agrarian country and Islamization was just gaining momentum, Malaysia embarked on a so-called "New Economic Policy" (NEP), designed to help the majority Malays gain a bigger share of the country's wealth. After three decades of spectacular economic growth, many Malays have become prosperous and content not only through secular capitalism, but through the country's renewed sense of Islamic identity, one which—for the most part—embraced modernization. (Of course, paradoxes appear every now and then, such as when globalization is advocated alongside demands for stronger censorship.)

Islamic-minded politicians such as Anwar Ibrahim gained prominence when Islamization took off in the 1970s. But the Islam they promoted was not backward looking; instead, it sought to shape a modernizing economic policy that took note of Muslim sensibilities.

Faced with the grass-roots popularity of this movement, by 1982 the government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad decided to co-opt Anwar into his United Malays National Organization (Umno), the dominant party within the country's ruling coalition. The strategy worked well, and helped defuse Islamic opposition to the wrenching changes that accompanied the country's rapid economic modernization.

During the 1990s, however, Anwar increased his influence within the party, unsettling many of the old guard. Matters came to a head after the 1997 financial crisis, when Anwar, the deputy prime minister, adopted an even more economically liberal approach than Mahathir. Partly in response to this challenge, Anwar was sacked.

Anwar's bizarre trial and sentencing on charges of sodomy and abuse of power invigorated the *reformasi* movement, as growing anti-Umno and anti-Mahathir sentiments took hold among Islamic-minded Malays. This culminated in poor electoral results for the ruling coalition in November 1999.

The Islamist party, Parti Islam SeMalaysia (PAS), took power in the states of Kelantan and Trengganu and strongly threatened Umno in other northern states. The personal conflict between Mahathir and Anwar thus led to an apparent rupture between Malaysia's Islamist political forces and the modernizers of Umno.

So, once again, Mahathir felt pressure to adopt a strategy aimed at preventing Islam from becoming a tool of opposition. This impulse strongly affected his choice of a successor when he decided to step down as prime minister. His choice of Abdullah Badawi, the current prime minister, helped Umno regain the Islamist moral high ground that the PAS had been claiming.

It was the beginning of America's global "war on terror" in 2001, however, that brought the political march of the Islamist parties to a screeching halt, as it provided an excuse for the government to crack down on the Malay right and the PAS.

But this only renewed Umno's desire to portray itself as sufficiently Islamist. So, before stepping down, Mahathir went so far as to declare Malaysia a de facto Muslim state. Eyebrows were raised and questions were asked about the lengths to which Mahathir would go to counteract the Islamist appeal.

This trend continues. One of Badawi's first acts after taking over as prime minister in October 2003 was to introduce the concept of "Islam Hadhari." This vague term was finally fleshed out in September 2004 through a list of 10 principles, all but one of which, however, was without religious connotations. Nevertheless, this move appeared to be all that was needed for Islam-minded voters to return to the fold of the ruling front.

In the general election in March 2004—the first since Mahathir stepped down after 22 years in power—moderate Muslims helped Abdullah to a landslide victory.

The release of Anwar soon afterwards raised the new premier's prestige further as a leader who could heal intra-Malay, and intra-Muslim, conflicts.

Since then, Abdullah has been popularizing the concept of Hadhari, shaping it as a means to shift Islam's focus from its sanctioning function to its civilizing potential and rendering it less ideological. In Malaysia today, Islam is being presented as a generator of civilization and culture, and not merely as a source of religious inspiration. This has helped to counter extremist tendencies domestically and provides a conceptual platform for moderate Islam. Islam Hadhari tries to project the idea that Umno's materialism and nationalism do not contradict Islam.

With various feints and strategies, Malaysia has effectively managed the tensions between a secular, modernizing agenda and the Islamic faith that the Malays profess. By making Islamists and Islamist sentiments a part of the process of modernization, Malaysia demonstrates that Islamic faith and economic growth can be reconciled if politicians are clever enough not to treat them as contradictions. ***Project Syndicate***

*Ooi Kee Beng is a fellow at Singapore's Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and coordinator of its Malaysia Studies Program.*

# Missing Haydee

## AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

THERE ARE TWO DEFINITIONS FOR THE WORD "feisty." One is "full of spirit; lively, energetic, exuberant, etc." Another is "quarrelsome, aggressive, belligerent, etc."

For Filipinos, the word "feisty" was defined for many years by Haydee Yorac, former professor at the UP College of Law, former Comelec chair, former senatorial candidate, and former head of the PCGG. Beyond the job titles, however, Haydee was for Filipinos the definition of a public servant, who not only carried out her duties with dedication, but was also fearless in her quest for justice and restitution, regardless of the forces ranged against her. She was also, for women, a role model who exemplified what a woman could achieve given talent, industry and integrity, which not only spoke of honesty and virtue, but also moral certainty and a fearsomeness that gave the lie to the common conception that bravery was the exclusive property of the strong and the masculine.

Because she spoke her mind and didn't mince words in denouncing wrongdoing, as well as wrongdoers, Haydee was often perceived as "*mataray*," a word that connotes not just being plain-spoken but also confrontational. So while the public appreciated her tart tongue and in-your-face attitude, they also feared her, suspecting a hair-trigger temper and intolerance for niceties.

I didn't have the chance to work with Haydee for long, and neither did I belong to the coterie of friends and colleagues, most of them from UP, with whom she shared dinners at home or in their favorite restaurants. But I had enough encounters with her to get to know her up close and personal. And contrary to the common image of her, I actually found Haydee quite sweet.

* * *

**UP close and in person, when she wasn't putting on her activist "hat," Haydee lived up to the reputation of Ilonggas, speaking with that distinctive lilt, especially in Filipino, that gave a gentle edge even to harsh judgments. She was also quite attached to her family, to her siblings and nephews and nieces, most of whom lived abroad, and told stories about her dogs with the same delight as parents do about their babies.**

**We happened to take part in the same conference in Phnom Penh some years back, and I remember both of us turning amok at the clothing section of the market when we found blouses from China selling for an incredible $1 each. Haydee was planning a trip to the United States and Canada to visit with family, and she dug through the pile of blouses with eagerness, stockpiling *pasalubong* for relatives.**

**When she decided to run for the Senate, the women's party list Abanse! Pinay "carried" her, to the extent of bringing her on a speaking tour around the country where voters, once they got to hear her and see her in the flesh, were inevitably charmed. But Haydee, who was greatly respected and was immediately recognizable even to strangers at the airport, refused to have anything to do with celebrity politics or gimmickry and was thus no match for movie stars or media figures.**

**She also demanded of political parties that they measure up to the same standards she set for herself. After the elections, she confided that former President Estrada had talked to her early in the campaign, promising her a senatorial slot and doubtless, with his party's support, she would have made it. But even while she found Estrada likeable, she said she ultimately decided against joining his line-up because they differed on too many basic issues.**

* * *

OF all the photos taken of her, my favorite portrait of Haydee is that scene taken during a "*harana*" for her organized by friends in civil society while she was undergoing chemotherapy for ovarian cancer.

She had been wheeled out of her room and, to acknowledge the friends who came to greet her, Haydee slipped off her face mask and gave her well-wishers a wan, tentative smile. Haydee had never looked more vulnerable or sweeter.

True to form, almost as soon as she was discharged and judged fit to resume her duties, she pursued her mission in the PCGG, even if, judging by her recent resignation, her zeal was no longer matched by an administration willing to compromise even its avowed principles for political survival.

* * *

**HAYDEE was part of the fast-dwindling coterie of public figures who, by the time Ninoy Aquino was assassinated in 1983, had already established themselves in their professions and thus had much more to risk by taking on the Marcoses. Though she had by then established a reputation as a formidable law professor, the only one, it was alleged whom Imee Marcos could not intimidate, Haydee was not exactly known as an activist, though she earned her stripes as a human rights lawyer before taking to the streets as a prominent anti-Marcos figure.**

**But together with other professionals—academics, business leaders, doctors and dentists, ordinary employees—Haydee provided the nascent protest movement, until then peopled only by leftist activists and opposition politicians, inspiration and direction, as well as much-needed credibility and reassurance to the rest of the nation tiring of the dictatorship but fearful of the alternatives.**

**Of course, there is a parallel to the situation then and now. I would dearly love to know what Haydee thought of the current imbroglio. But something tells me that she would not have been bothered by peripheral issues like unsavory alternatives or the lack of coherence within the broad coalition forming against GMA. Haydee was the sort of person who would have zeroed in on the central issue of truth and consequences, right or wrong. And that is why she will be missed. We could certainly do with her feisty presence right now.**

# Culture education

## LOOKING BACK

*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

ONE REASON WHY CULTURE IS COVERED BY too many misconceptions is that it is not fully integrated into our basic education curriculum. For obvious reasons, our present curriculum is focused on mastery of English, Science and Math. When you speak of culture, it is lumped into a strange creature called Hekasi, which is Heograpiya, Kasaysayan and Sibika all rolled into one. Culture is often associated with the arts and in practical terms that means drawing, music or dancing, rather than teaching children that culture is that which defines who we are and who we want to be. Perhaps we should teach children that culture shows us the nation and people we fail to be.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts has been working on a Philippine Cultural Education Plan (PCEP) for the past five years, and when I took this as an area of concern, I was shown a cultural index in three volumes, one of them as thick as a phone directory. While I browsed through the bibliography and marveled at its content and structure as an academic, I asked myself if this would be useful to a mat weaver in Tawi-Tawi or a *bulul* carver in the Cordilleras. With some popularization, perhaps the PCEP could be implemented by the Department of Education.

The task is simple. In the six years that a child is in grade school, what 10 pieces of art should they know by sight? What 10 books should they read aside from "Noli" and "Fili"? What 10 tunes should they be able to sing aside from "Bayan Ko," the National Anthem and "Ama Namin"? What dance movements should they learn aside from *ocho-ocho*? These seem to be basic inputs that will impart something common to all students throughout the archipelago and form a body of knowledge that will make them know and appreciate what it is to be Filipino.

I wouldn't be surprised if pre-school children today can recognize Ronald McDonald, Jollibee or the freckled Wendy's mascot on sight but not know Fernando Amorsolo or Atang de la Rama. Perhaps they know more about Mother Goose and Harry Potter than Lam-ang or Mariang Makiling. Drawing up a list of cultural icons is potentially contentious, but we have to start somewhere.

When we first presented the PCEP to a receptive group at the DepEd Teachers Education Council, we insisted that culture should not be isolated in Hekasi. Culture should be taught across disciplines. When we teach students grammar, why do we allow the teachers to make clumsy examples of elementary sentences when we have a gold mine from the prose and poetry of Nick Joaquin, Amado Hernandez, Virgilio Almario and our other National Artists for Literature? When we teach children color, we can get examples from the works of Amorsolo and Joya. When we teach geometric shapes, we can ask students to seek these out in the abstract works of Ocampo and Luz. Only when culture is taught across disciplines will people see culture in their everyday lives.

Culture can provide Filipinos with a context in which to see themselves. Culture will give us roots, to balance an education that presently gives us wings to soar and enables us to work abroad. We recently heard that Ballet Philippines lost their senior dancers to a headhunting expedition from Hong Kong Disneyland. While we understand that we cannot match the salaries being offered in Hong Kong, one should ask what happens to the talent honed over years of hard work and training. Trained for classical ballet, our dancers will not even be recognized as Filipinos because they will be inside a Mickey Mouse or Daisy Duck costume, like a fast-food mascot.

A generation before ours, Filipinos who went abroad to seek greener pastures aimed to make their bundle and come home to enjoy the fruits of their labor and sacrifice. What I find distressing these days is that people who plan to work overseas have little or no intention of returning. Now that is real brain drain.

It is also distressing that Nick Joaquin 50 years ago was quoted as saying, "There is so much stupidity in this country we should export it." When you look at the country today, you realize that we are exporting our best and brightest. Now that is something to worry about. When our best ballet dancers leave a vocation and the chance to perform "Swan Lake" in the Cultural Center of the Philippines to become a dancing teacup in Hong Kong Disneyland, that is terrible indeed.

The good news is that a younger generation of dancers have moved up in Ballet Philippines to wear the shoes of the senior dancers who we hope will only be in Disneyland temporarily. When the headhunters from Hong Kong made another raiding expedition, the younger ones did not bite. Their reason: "We want to dance." This is the difference when people have roots rather than wings. Maybe these young people have both wings and roots.

Furthermore, culture provides an appreciation for heritage and the environment. We leave heritage to Bambi Harper and Toti Villalon and take an example of culture and environment. Weep when you visit those imposing solid narra statues outside Barrio Fiesta Baguio. A sign proudly says, "This statue was made from a 200-year-old tree." Culture should teach us to care for the environment and see the irony of the concrete pine tree atop Session Road in Baguio. The day that we have a live tree there in place of the concrete symbol of the City of Pines is the day when culture has taught us to see the difference between what is real and what is not.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu*

# Honor

SEPTEMBER IS USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH MARCOS' declaration of martial law back in 1972. I am sure almost no one remembers Sept. 16, the date we weaned ourselves from Mother America, when the Philippine Senate rejected a proposed treaty to allow US bases to remain in the Philippines.

## PINOY KASI

*Michael L. Tan*

I've written in the past about the need for memory-keeping, one that goes beyond the commemoration of dark events and defeats (for example, the Fall of Bataan). Memory-keeping must include the times we stood up, stood our ground, as we did on Sept. 16, 1991. Memory-keeping is not just commemorating historic moments, but also appreciating their consequences.

### Oreo and Spam

To understand what that Sept. 16 decision entailed, we need to recall what the US bases represented. The bases were set up as part of the American colonial occupation of the Philippines at the turn of the 20th century. We allowed the Americans to stay even after we regained our independence in 1946, supposedly because the bases would help protect us from invaders. The bases, in fact, played vital roles during the Korean and Vietnamese debacles, in the deployment of war planes and ships, and in providing rest and recreation for war-weary GIs.

These US bases were the largest outside the mainland United States, with Clark Air Base alone having enough parking space for some 200 planes. In 1990, the bases employed some 43,000 Filipinos, making the US government the second largest employer in the country after the Philippine government. Income-wise, the bases meant some $200 million a year for the country.

We tend not to recognize the impact of the bases on our national psyche. Rather than seeing the bases as examples of US military aggression, we came to think of ourselves as a helpless nation, depending on the Americans as defenders of Filipino sovereignty and freedom.

We wanted to believe the bases were there to defend us, yet the bases were there to constantly remind us of American might. The bases were, literally, US territories, above our laws. When GIs would "accidentally" kill Filipinos, they would be flown out, escaping our courts.

The bases were there to remind us, too, of the American "good life," exemplified by "PX" goods from the commissaries. The goods eventually made their way out of the bases, to Angeles, to Cartimar, to which people would trek much like religious pilgrims, to get a bit of America in Oreo cookies, Spam, Playboy magazine.

"*Amoy Amerika* (It smells like America)!" we would squeal in delight, opening up boxes of these goods from heaven.

### 'Tiangge' diplomacy

Alas, all good things come to an end. The bases treaty was to expire on Sept. 21, 1991. In terms of national sovereignty, there should have been no question about ending the treaty and asking the Americans to leave.

But realpolitik didn't work out that way. President Corazon Aquino was, like many Filipinos, very much pro-bases, convinced that they were good for the Philippines. The possibilities of a new treaty were explored; Aquino appointed a Philippine panel headed by Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, who was then the health secretary.

Together with Raul Rodrigo, Dr. Bengzon eventually wrote a book titled "A Matter of Honor," recalling the talks around the bases. Here we get glimpses of the haggling, of the wheeling and the dealing in the corridors of power, both here and in the United States. We read of the US Ambassador Richard Armitage and his "cash register diplomacy," first dangling $1 billion a year for "rental." After Pinatubo erupted in June 1991, he informed the Philippine government that the "equation has changed," offering $360 million for the first year and $103 million a year for the next nine years. The good ambassador must have had a lot of practice bargaining in our *tiangge* (bazaars).

But there was more to all this than money. The name of the game was US access and control. Early in the negotiations, Armitage expressed outrage when the Philippine panel proposed a "phaseout." What the Americans wanted was a long-term "phasedown" of 10 to 12 years. They were also clear that the Philippines would "phase in" only during the last years of the transition.

The US government knew they could bargain because so many of our officials were so much in favor of retaining the bases. There was an all too visible Opus Dei clique, including Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao, who was close to President Aquino and who might as well have been part of the US panel, given the concessions they proposed. There was Olongapo Mayor Dick Gordon, warning of dire consequences if the bases closed down.

### Victory in defeat

Public opinion eventually turned against the US bases, fueled in part by the insolence of the US negotiating panel and by the flip-flops of the nation's leaders, including, sadly, the President's.

When it became clear that the Senate would not ratify the proposed new treaty, the President led a "pro-ratification" rally at the Luneta. Government workers were bussed in to listen to speeches from pro-bases senators lambasting the anti-bases groups as "anti-American" and "communist." Bishop Teodoro Bacani declared in his opening prayer: "Many of our senators are deaf and blind. They have hearts of stone."

On Sept. 16, 1991, the Senate voted on the treaty. Former Senator Lorenzo Tañada, then 93 and ill, left his sickbed to go to the Senate. His son, Wigberto, was among the senators who were to vote against the treaty. Senate President Jovito Salonga was the last to explain his vote: "I vote no to this Treaty, and if it were only possible, I would vote 203 million times, 'No'." After a short recess, he announced the final result: "By a vote of 12-11, the treaty is defeated."

Defeating the treaty was a defining moment, a time when we stood up for national honor, a time of victory, overcoming our fears of walking without America at our side.

Mind you, we still suffer from the imprinting that came with the US bases. PX prepared us all too well for the flood of imported goods under trade liberalization although, of course, the stuff is now mostly made in China, rather than in the United States. We still allow American troops to come in for joint military exercises, supposedly to beef up our own capabilities to fight insurgents and terrorists. And, it seems, we are still willing to contract US lobbying firms, paying them thousands of dollars to handle our public relations.

It could be worse though. In the aftermath of 9/11, if the bases had stayed, I can imagine we would have been much more involved in George W. Bush's global adventurism. The bases, so emblematic of our being an American neo-colony, would have made us more vulnerable to retaliatory attacks from Bush's enemies.

Honor made us let go of the bases, and we, as well as the world, are the better for it.

# Transactional presidency

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S desperate bid for political survival has brought about what we may term as a "transactional presidency." Everything and anything are up for grabs at so much cost to the country.

By way of analogy and for easy appreciation, Malacañang can be likened to an "ATM (Automatic Transfer from Malacañang) machine" while the members of Congress and local government officials are the "ATM cardholders."

When a congressman uses that ATM machine, he selects from a menu of options: (1) Priority Development and Assistance Fund releases; (2) Road Users' Tax releases; (3) Appointment of protégés and relatives; (4) All of the above. After which the ATM machine flashes the "Transaction Completed" sign on the screen. He then happily goes back to his district and firms up his decision not to sign the impeachment complaint.

The same is true of local government executives. They also get to use the ATM machine and select from a slightly different menu of options: (1) Internal Revenue Allotment releases; (2) Local infrastructure projects; (3) Appointment of protégés and relatives; (4) All of the above. Again, after finishing, the "Transaction Completed" sign appears on the screen. They then also happily go back to their constituents and firm up their decisions to support the President all the way to 2010.

That is why I consider the President's appointment of Romulo Neri as budget secretary a political master stroke. Neri is a protégé of Speaker Jose de Venecia. He once headed the Congressional Planning Office prior to his appointment to the Cabinet. A cooperative budget secretary ensures that the "ATM machine" is fully loaded at all times.

**—FERDIE T. SIBAL,**
**18 Green Leaves St.,**
**Capitol Green Village,**
**Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

# No mention of GMA-resign groups

I AM WRITING THIS letter to express my disappointment in the INQUIRER news story on the military's readiness to step in if anti-government protests turn violent. (PDI, 9/6/05) The writer, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, unfairly reported that I accused groups that are demanding the President's resignation of fanning the fires of a volatile situation through "disinformation, black propaganda and other anti-government activities."

I stated that despite renewed efforts by rumor-mongers to take advantage of the volatile situation in the country by causing confusion and panic through disinformation, black propaganda and other anti-government activities, the AFP remains unfazed and will not be distracted from performing its mandated duty to serve and protect the country and the Filipino people. Nowhere did I mention any groups demanding the resignation of the President.

**—JOSE ANGEL A. HONRADO,**
**brigadier general,**
**AFP, commander,**
**Civil Relations**
**Service, Armed**
**Forces of the**
**Philippines,**
**Camp Aguinaldo, QC**

*The rest of the statement read: "Our people are tired of hearing threats of martial law, revolutionary transition governments, military and/or police intervention and other rumors being circulated by those orchestrating destabilization efforts and other anti-government groups."*

*In the context of the political crisis, groups calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation fall under the term, "anti-government groups."*

**—DONA Z.**
**PAZZIBUGAN,**
**PDI reporter**

# What GMA faces in the US

## VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I DISAGREE WITH THE CLAIM THAT MAJORITY of Filipinos in the East Coast (United States) support Ms Arroyo. Since the revelation of the "Hello, Garci" tapes and the "*jueteng*" bribery, I and most of my friends here in our area are not happy with our President.—**Jerry Javellana, ejjavellana@sbcglobal.net**

* * *

Maybe it's not proper for us Filipinos to harass our leaders when they represent our country in a foreign land. It's like taking our clothes off in public. Yes, we can always annoy and destroy our leaders, but doing so is like rubbing salt on our country's injuries.

With our kind of mentality and attitude, whoever governs us will be a failure. Why not give the present leadership a chance? A country under a dictatorship for 20 years cannot progress with just a snap of a finger. We were patient for 20 years, why not for another six?

For us, Filipinos abroad, it's easy to criticize and judge. We work and send money to the Philippines. And our own families enjoy that. But the question to ask ourselves is: Do I do my share in helping my countrymen, or am I helping to degrade the Filipino nation?

It is sad when companies and investors pull out of our country because of political instability. How many Filipinos are out of work? Do we care for our "*kababayan*"? It's good that some street protesters are not going hungry. How about those people who only want to work and earn for their families?

Maybe, we should think positive so that we will be able to gather positive energies. Let's stop pointing fingers at each other.—**Fler Aguilar, Paris, France (via e-mail)**

* * *

The phrases "fake leader" and "most corrupt government official in the Philippines" are hard to swallow. Please remember that President Macapagal-Arroyo has never played *mahjongg* in the Palace; she doesn't wine and dine until sunrise; and she is most likely burning the midnight oil attending to the nation's priorities.

Madam President, you're most welcome to drop by the Emerald City of Seattle. You are doing a good job. Don't let them take that away from you. God bless the Philippines, except the priests and bishops.—**Fernando G. Llamas, 821 Second Avenue, Seattle, Washington (via e-mail)**

* * *

The hiring by the Arroyo government of an American lobbyist to ask help from the US Congress for GMA's campaign to change the form of government in the Philippines (from presidential to parliamentary) is her ultimate crime against the Filipino people! This alone is enough ground to call for her impeachment. And I thought the Philippines is an independent country.

The sacrifices of our soldiers who fought for our independence are going to nought. Our heroes died in vain. What a shame, GMA! How dare you sell our country!—**Roj Clemente, regor_ramo@yahoo.com**

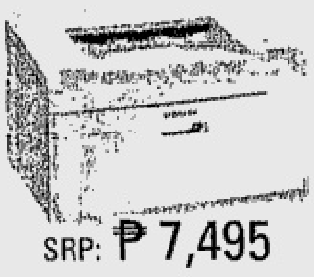
* * *

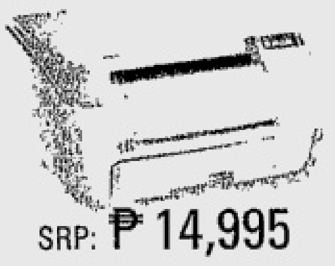
GMA is mortally wounded. She's politically and morally dead. She cannot forever bribe bishops, generals and congressmen. The vultures are circling above. *Wala na nga tayong pambayad sa utang, pinangsusukli pa niya para sa kanyang utang na loob sa mga bayaran sa lipunan.*

The UN terrorism summit gave her an opportunity to fake her acceptance in the global community. It's only right that she is the presiding officer in the "terrorism summit." She is with Dubya in the list of state terrorists!

There will be a demonstration in New York, timed with her performance at the UN. A national advocacy for special elections in the Philippines is also a-forming.—**Adolfo Paglinawan, Maryland, USA**

Get switched!





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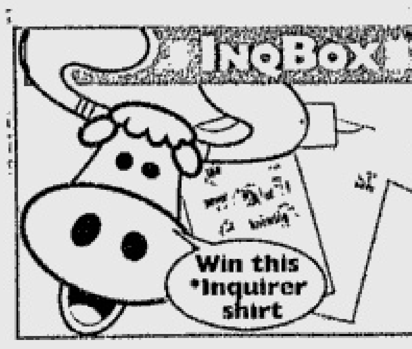

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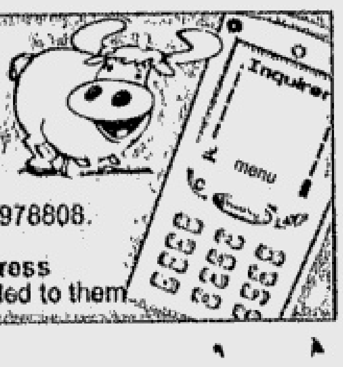

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# Kidnapped woman freed after a year

COTABATO CITY—A CHANCE ENCOUNTER with some 30 suspected kidnap-for-ransom gang members along the highway of Datu Odin Sinsuat town in Maguindanao on Tuesday night resulted in the "accidental release" of an elderly woman who was kidnapped in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat last year.

Supt. Alex Bancula, police deputy director for administration in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said policemen conducting patrol operation chanced upon the kidnappers and their victim, Zoila Cansi, in Barangay Kurentem in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

A gunfight ensued but no one was reported hurt.

While the fighting was going on, Cansi hid in the bushes until the suspects fled. She later shouted at the policemen and identified herself as a kidnap victim.

Bancula said the 65-year-old victim "lost weight, appeared haggard and very tired," and claimed that she was not harmed during her captivity.

## Ransom

Four gunmen seized Cansi from her store in Lambayong on Feb. 5 last year. The kidnappers had demanded a P5 million ransom but her family said it could not raise the amount.

But the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is negotiating peace with the government, said it doubted that it was a legitimate operation, saying the encounter happened on a highway sandwiched by a police outpost and a military detachment.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said he believes that the release was due to "monetary consideration," but he said he could not determine the exact amount that was paid for the victim's freedom.

"I believe less than a million pesos because this is their livelihood," he said.

## Important thing

"Whatever it was, what is important is that Ms Cansi is free and safe," Kabalu added.

Meanwhile, relatives of Filipino-Chinese trader Benny Kota called on authorities and local officials to help rescue the kidnap victim.

Kota, 41, was seized on April 8 in front of his home along Notre Dame Avenue in Cotabato City. His kidnappers, however, have not sent any ransom demand.

Officials have expressed alarm over the rising number of crimes in Cotabato City, including an increase in the number of kidnappings. *Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Señase and Jeffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### Sayyaf into smuggling

ZAMBOANGA CITY—More than P10 million worth of contraband and firearms were recovered in a raid in Kalinggalang Caluang town in Sulu on Tuesday dawn. Brig. General Juancho Sabban, 3rd Marine Brigade commander, said in a phone interview that the smuggled items and firearms belonged to the Abu Sayyaf. "Since they could no longer operate and conduct kidnappings, they are venturing into smuggling and other illegal activities to sustain their operations," Sabban said. He added that they initially received reports from residents about the landing of a vessel with several fully armed men on the shores of Barangay Pandang-pandang on Monday night. Sabban ordered the raid. "There was minimal resistance as most of the armed men have already alighted from the speedboat," Sabban added. The raid yielded assorted imported cigarettes, 200 bales of used clothing, a 50 caliber heavy machine gun, one M60 light machine gun, M14 rifle and ammunition.
*Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

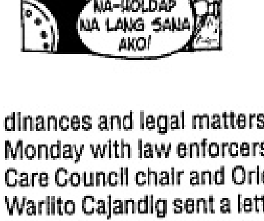
### Upsilon reunion

BAGUIO CITY—The three-day Upsilon Sigma Phi grand reunion here dubbed "A Cordillera Experience ... Pambihirang Fellowship" opens today (Sept. 16) with the "Aloyan" concert at the Saint Louis University auditorium here. "Aloyan," a love story of an Igorot lass and a university student from the lowlands, is performed by the SLU Repertory Group and directed by lawyer Damaso Bangaoet Jr. The musicale is produced by the Upsilon Sigma Phi, the oldest fraternity at the University of the Philippines and Asia. The original script, including songs, compositions and arrangements, is done by Dick Zamora, lyricist Mart Martel and the late Teddy Yabut. Other activities, which are led by Upsilon Sigma Phi Batches '55, '65, and '80, are a *canao* night at the Camp John Hay clubhouse, golf and badminton tournaments, a cultural tour, and a fraternity ball on Sept. 17 at the CAP-Camp John Hay trade and cultural center.

### Passport service goes mobile

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Mobile Passport Service (MPS) in Oriental Mindoro will hold its processing days on Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 1 at the provincial capitol complex. New applicants are required to personally appear. Processing of lost valid passport is not allowed. The fee is P750. The MPS was made possible by the provincial government, the Association of Mindoreños Inc. and the Department of Foreign Affairs. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Checkpoint mulcting hit


NA-HOLDAP NA LANG SANA AKO!

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) will recommend an ordinance that prohibits checkpoint solicitations for fiestas along the road, especially highways. This was learned from Ireneo Apasan, committee on laws, ordinances and legal matters chair, in a meeting on Monday with law enforcers. On Aug. 28, Provincial Care Council chair and Oriental Mindoro Bishop Warlito Cajandig sent a letter to the SP to act on the matter. Cajandig said this particular way of solicitation is not a service but a disservice since it is robbing hapless drivers of their hard-earned income. Senior Supt. Marcos Flores, Oriental Mindoro provincial police director, said he would send directives to his chiefs of police to put a stop to it.
*Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Dead NPA exhumed

CITY OF CALAPAN—The body of Michael "Ka Tolits" Saligumba, a New People's Army group commander, was exhumed by relatives on Sept. 11 in San Francisco, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, said Norman Novio, a staff member of the Social Services Commission-Apostolic Vicariate of San Jose. Col. Ralph Villanueva, 204th Infantry Brigade commanding officer, said Saligumba belonged to the Platoon 3, Kilusang Larangan Gerilya 2. Saligumba died of infection and blood loss due to wounds suffered during the Aug. 28 encounter in Barangay Sta. Lucia, Sablayan, according to Bongbong Marquez, secretary general of Kaagapay, a network of non-government organizations. Villanueva said Lt. Randy Veneracion, of the 80th Infantry Battalion, offered Saligumba safe passage while he was wounded in the mountain but his companions refused. Residents said Saligumba was part of the group that ambushed Gov. Josephine Ramirez-Sato's caravan last year.
*Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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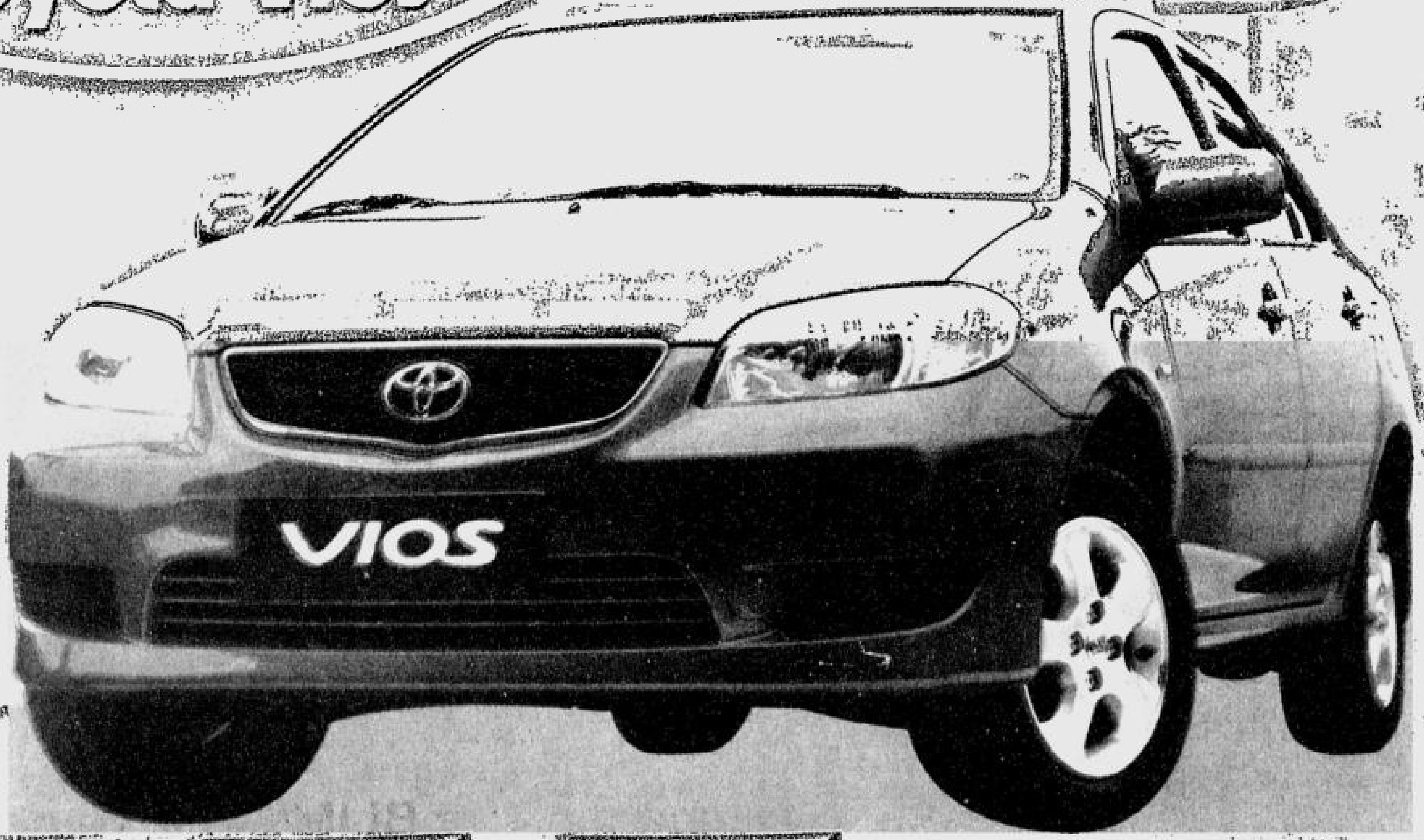

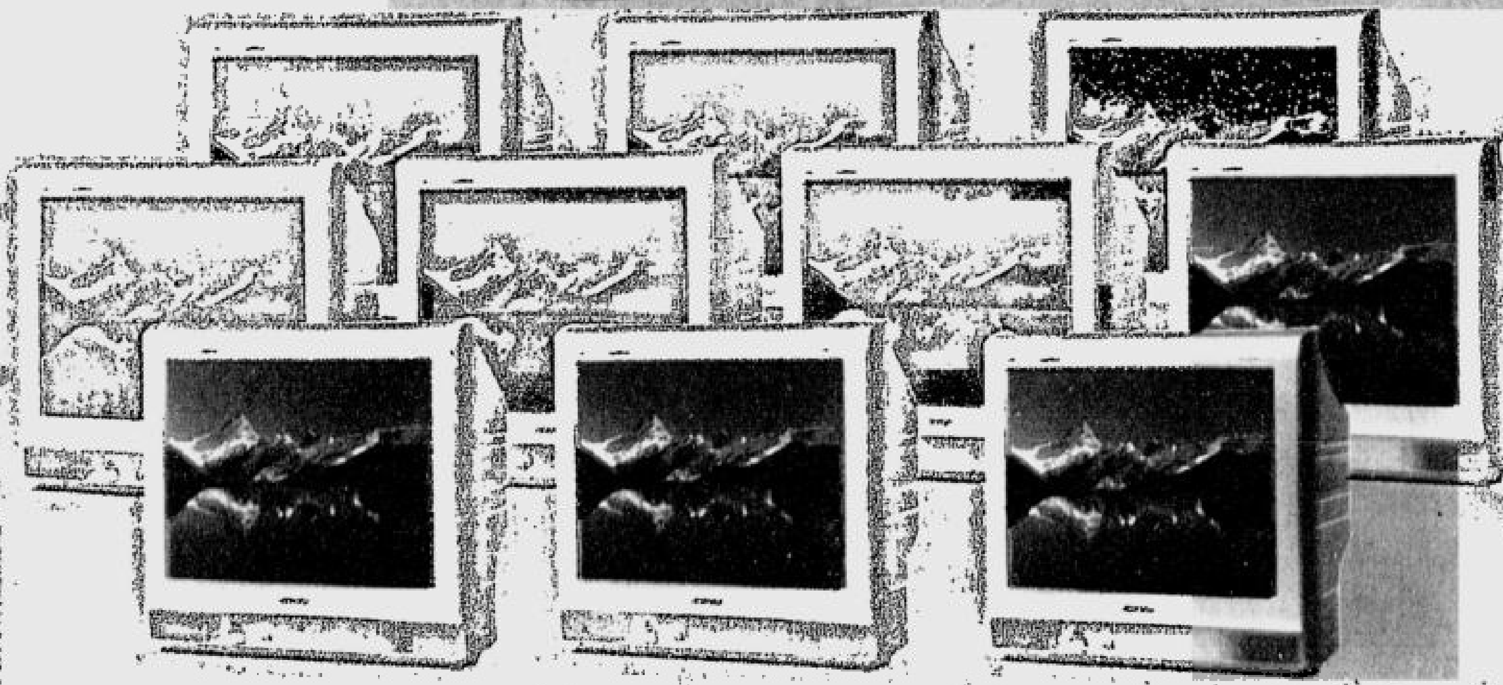

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Per DTI-PGA Permit No. 141 Series of 2005
See Flyers for details.

# Senator seeks probe of coal-fired plant

PIMENTEL

MABALACAT, PAMPANGA—SEN. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has filed a resolution directing the Senate committee on environment to inquire into the "deleterious effects" of the construction and operation of the 50-megawatt coal-fired power plant of the Trust International Paper Corp. (Tipco) here.

In Resolution No. 333, Pimentel cited public health safety issues and an alleged flawed process in seeking an inquiry in aid of legislation.

According to him, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued Tipco an environment compliance certificate on Sept. 3, 2002 "without public consultation."

The plant, located in Barangay Bundagul, is 500 meters south of the Madapdap resettlement, which the government built in 1993 for 45,000 people displaced by Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions.

Pimentel said the people "are exposed to the ill effects of arsenic, mercury, lead, sulfur dioxide and chromium."

But Tipco officials allayed fears of environmental and health harm, saying the company had installed the best pollution-control technology.

Citing studies, Pimentel said that exposure to 0.002 pound of mercury was "sufficient to poison 25 hectares of lake water and all species found therein."

The operation of a coal-fired power plant, he said, causes environmental hazards to the ecosystem, among which include acidification, difficulty in locating potable groundwater sources and decreased agricultural production.

Pimentel's action came after the People's Coalition against Tipco's Coal-Fired Power Plants, through a noise barrage on Sept. 2 and a petition letter by the Madapdap settlers, lobbied for the cancellation of the ECC issued by former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

They are the last group of residents to oppose the project. Most of them are from Bacolor, a Pampanga town buried by volcanic mudflows or lahar in 1995. The Mabalacat town government has supported the project.

Among the bases for the cancellation was the supposed default by Tipco and its subsidiary, the Asia Pacific Energy Corp. (Apec), on the project's schedule, according to the coalition's chair, barangay captain Javier Taruc.

The ECC issued by Alvarez contained a provision "automatically revoking" the project if it did not start construction and operation within three years.

Willie Chua, Tipco vice president, denied the lapse in schedule or a move by his company to seek an extension of the ECC's date of effectivity.

Chua confirmed that the first of the two power plants was 92-percent finished as of Sept. 2.

The contractors of Apec, the Foster Wheeler Energia and Formosa Heavy Industries, hoped to begin commissioning the facility by the fourth quarter of 2005, he said. Each phase costs P3 billion to build and operate.

Tipco, one of the biggest paper producers in Southeast Asia, expects the facilities to provide the company a cheaper source of electricity, Chua said.

*Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# Customs says income from used cars in Subic down 97 percent

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—THE COLLECTION of P500,000 as safeguard duty on imported second-hand cars, which was the government's way of preventing the entry of used motor vehicles, caused the revenues of the Port of Subic from those items to dip by 97 percent, Customs Commissioner Alexander Arevalo said.

"The policy has effectively discouraged the import of second-hand vehicles. At P500,000, plus taxes and the cost of car, you would rather buy a brand new one," he said, referring to the now controversial Executive Order No. 156.

Issued on Dec. 12, 2002, the order provided for a comprehensive industrial policy and directions for the government's motor vehicle development program. It also banned the importation of all types of used motor vehicles, parts and components.

The Court of Appeals in February this year affirmed the March 10, 2004 decision of the Olongapo City regional trial court to declare EO 156 unconstitutional and illegal.

As its motion for consideration was denied by the appellate court, the Office of the Solicitor General filed a petition for review on certiorari with the Supreme Court, where the case is pending.

Arevalo said: "The action you can see in terms of the vehicles is what I call policy calibration in action. This means to say there was a policy on the entry of second-hand vehicles but then the government said that it did not achieve its desired goals in revenue or in managing the number of vehicles on the road, so they have to put some policy changes to see to it that it responds to national interests."

Sen. Richard Gordon, former chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, had charged that the revocation of the EO was in exchange for the withdrawal of Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay's signature from the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The supposed deal was reportedly facilitated by Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, the congressman's cousin.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye insisted that Malacañang had no plans to revoke the EO. The two Magsaysays denied such a deal.

Governor Magsaysay said he did lobby for the revocation of the EO. In his letter dated Aug. 19 to resigned SBMA Chair Francisco Licuanan III, Magsaysay pressed SBMA officials to "make a firm and definite stand" on the imported motor vehicles.

He cited the complaints of investors who, according to him, "find it difficult to understand why our government cannot obey its own rules, order and mandate." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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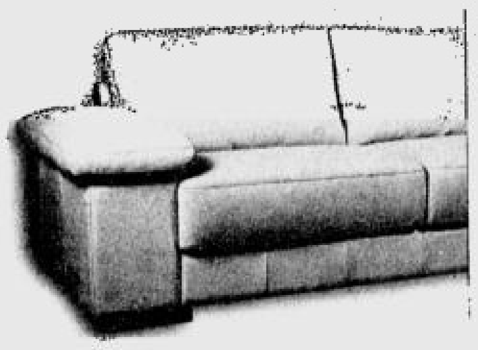

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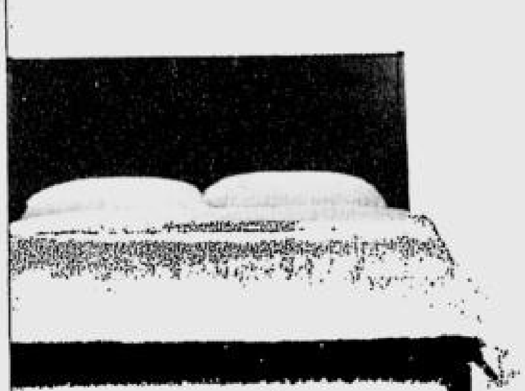

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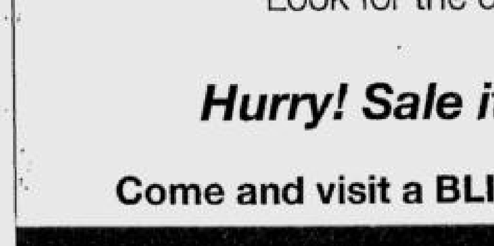

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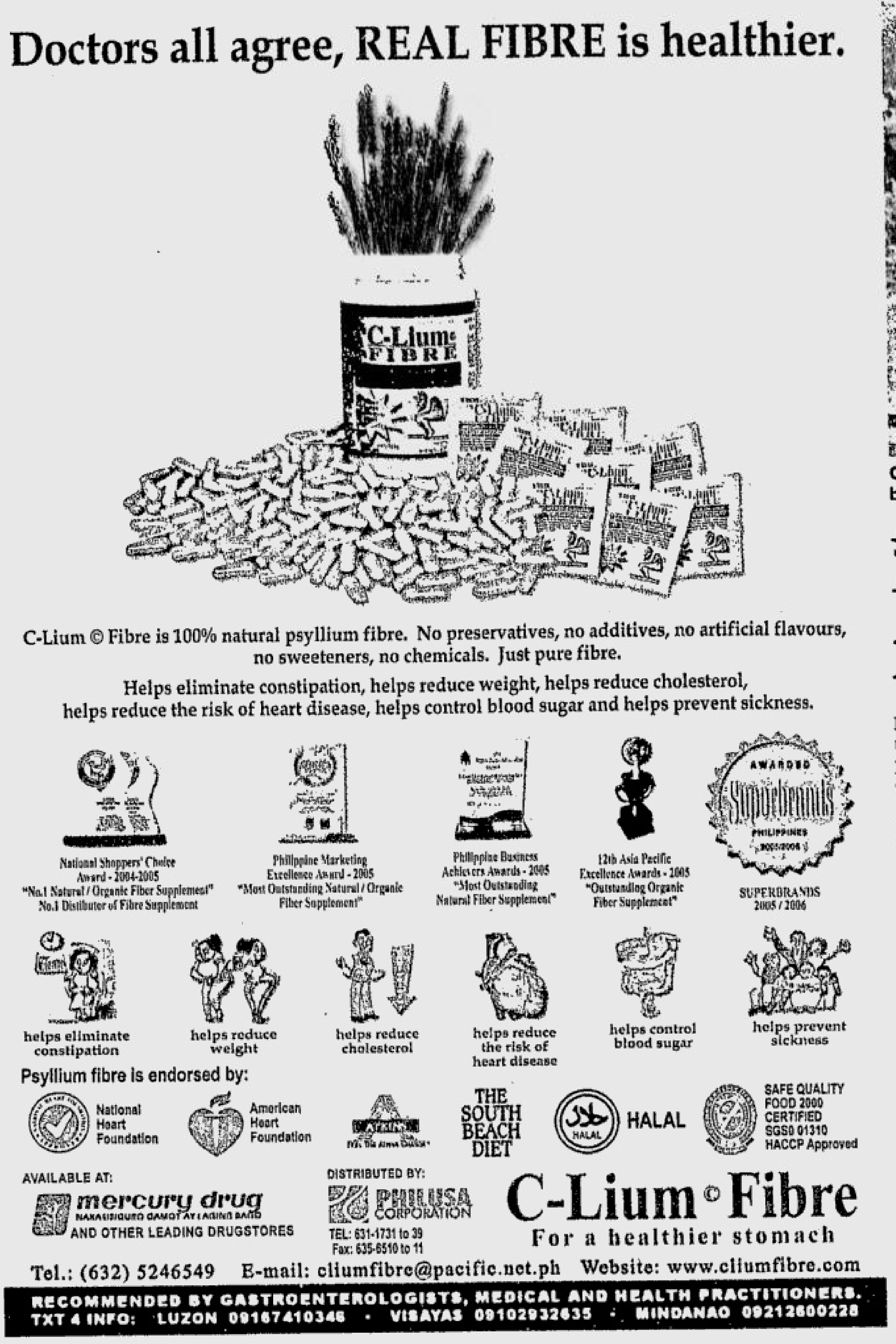
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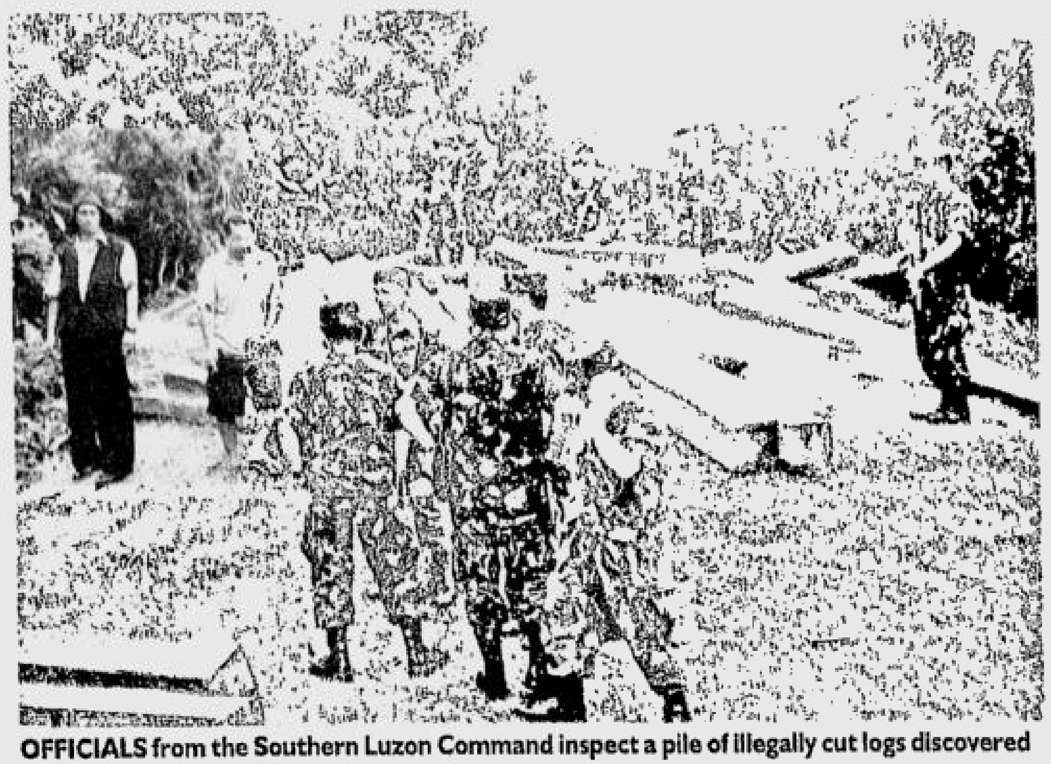


**OFFICIALS** from the Southern Luzon Command inspect a pile of illegally cut logs discovered by soldiers in the eastern side of the Sierra Madre. DELFIN MALLARI JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

# P8M in illegal logs found in Sierra Madre

LUCENA CITY—ARMY SOLDIERS, WHILE tracking down a band of communist New People's Army rebels on Friday, discovered piles of illegally cut logs with an estimated volume of 188.78 cubic meters worth P8 million in Sitio Balatkahoy, Barangay Cagsiay III in Mauban town on the eastern side of Sierra Madre.

Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., commander of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here, Quezon police provincial director Senior Supt. Victorio Caragan and other military officers flew to the area using Air Force helicopters and conducted an ocular inspection.

Cabuay pointed to the NPA rebels operating in the area as the protector of illegal logging operations in the Sierra Madre.

He said the rebels collect 20 percent from illegal loggers per board foot of fallen timber.

According to Col. Roland Detabali, commander of the Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade, his men were on patrol in Sitio Piapi when they discovered an abandoned NPA camp some 5 km from the log piles scattered in at least four locations in the area.

All logs bore marks with letters HB and two digit numbers.

The soldiers also apprehended a truck without a license plate loaded with timber, the driver and four of his helpers.

The suspects were identified as Nemesio Marquez, truck driver, his sons Niko and Nemesio Jr., Junior Romero and Rodel Locenia—all residents of Barangay San Antonio, Kalayaan, Laguna.

Marquez said the truck was owned by a certain Uoy Laganas, a co-villager.

He said they receive P2 per board foot of timber that they deliver to an area they called Ginabihan.

The logs would be pulled by carabaos to another drop area near San Antonio.

He declined to name the capitalist behind the illegal logging.

He said ready buyers of the illegally cut timber pay P10 per board foot.

Emrich Borja, Quezon provincial environment and natural resources officer, said the area was part of an industrial forest management agreement of Interwood, a logging firm with a sawmill in Mauban.

"But since the cut logs are bound for Kalayaan, Laguna, Interwood is a victim of timber poaching," he said, adding that Interwood does not maintain concession guards.

The average diameter of the seized logs is 20 cm.

Borja said the logs would probably be used as raw materials for "paleta" in several woodcrafts that started to mushroom in Laguna after the ban on log movements in Quezon.

Meanwhile, Caragan scoffed at Environment Secretary Michael Defensor for blaming the police for continued illegal logging in the Mauban side of the Sierra Madre.

He said Defensor should instead direct his tirades against his own forest guards and not at the policemen. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# Dad says Cotabato crimes on the rise

COTABATO CITY—While Maguindanao and other nearby provinces are experiencing relative peace, this city's security problem is getting worse.

"The situation here has worsened and residents are alarmed by the frequent killings and holdups," said Councilor Orlando Badoy, chair of the city council's police and security committee.

Just last week, a mother and a child were gunned down inside their residence in Barangay Rosary Heights 2; a man wielding an unlicensed gun was shot by a policeman inside a beer house; a number of civilians, mostly students, complained of mobile phone robberies; and houses are being ransacked by thieves.

Badoy said despite the city council's all-out support for the needs of the police, policemen appear to be remiss of their duties.

Senior Insp. Samson Obatay, police precinct 4 commander and newly designated head of city police operatives, said lack of mobile patrol cars and insufficient fuel have hampered police's round-the-clock operation. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# *Population exec says vasectomy still unpopular*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Less than a percent of married men in Central Luzon practice family planning methods especially vasectomy, a national trend that has continued since 2003, a Population Commission official said.

There has been slow progress as few towns and cities, like San Fernando and Angeles in Pampanga, actually operate vasectomy centers on a regular basis, according to Rosa Fortaleza, Popcom regional director.

The region's biggest government-run hospital, the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Hospital, for instance, does not have a vasectomy clinic and a permanent staff to carry out the simple and nonsurgical procedure, said Dr. Juvencio Ordoña, regional director of the Department of Health.

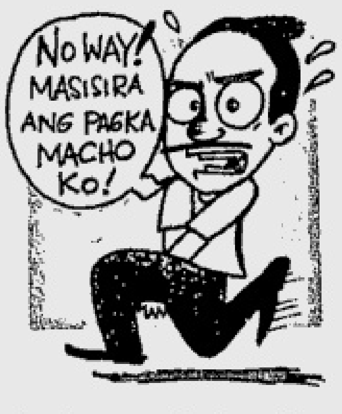
In the region where 2.3 million of its 8.2 million residents are men between 15 and 54 years old, vasectomy or male sterilization is shunned because it is regarded as damaging to the "macho" image.

"That's the number one cause," Ordoña said.

Others have misconception that the method weakens sexual prowess, he said.

He and Fortaleza noted that the burden of reproductive health care among couples is still on the women.

At least 18.3 percent of women covered by the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey in Central Luzon reported using tubal ligation or female sterilization, making it the most used family planning method in the region.


NO WAY! MASISIRA ANG PAGKA MACHO KO!

In Angeles City, the family planning campaign is making a headway among tricycle drivers. In a session alone, at least 15 drivers underwent vasectomy.

"*Pinapakita ko na mahal ko ang asawa ko* (I'm demonstrating that I love my wife)," was the reason most often cited by the drivers, said Fortaleza.

The DOH, Ordoña said, has not set targets in terms of how many men and women should avail themselves of sterilization.

"We advocate only couple's choice. We don't intimidate or give incentives," Ordoña said.

He said couples usually start using contraceptives after the first child. The same survey also showed that more women want to use contraceptives.

Supplies were expected to drop as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) begins to stop this year its subsidy for birth control pills and condoms.

It is in this light, according to Fortaleza, that Popcom and the DOH were helping local governments, mandated by law to take on the population management program, to identify their requirements and be contraceptive self-reliant. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# 4 pols got 'hot' e-mails from Aquino, Aragoncillo

From page A1

the FBI for receiving the information allegedly obtained by Aquino, Ricardo Diaz, chief of the Interpol Division of the National Bureau of Investigation, said Wednesday.

Diaz said the names of the three officials would be divulged once the charges are unsealed on Sept. 22.

Lacson acknowledged on Tuesday that he had received pieces of information from Aquino but said these were accounts of developments in the Philippines that had been reported in the media.

## Nonclassified documents

In a statement, Estrada said yesterday he received "nonclassified documents" from Aragoncillo who, along with other Filipino-Americans working in the White House in the Clinton administration, the former President met during his working visit to the United States in July 2000.

Estrada said Aragoncillo passed on some documents to him while visiting him at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City where he was previously detained.

The former President said that he even showed these documents, which were mostly about the current Philippine situation, to Environment Secretary Mike Defensor and columnist Dick Pascual.

"*Alam mo pag preso lahat babasahin at tatanggapin mo kahit pambalot ng tinapa* (You know a prisoner will read anything and everything, including the paper used to wrap smoked fish)," Estrada said.

He, however, said he had no knowledge of any illegal activity by Aragoncillo.

The FBI complaint said Aquino sent an e-mail to a "high-level" public official in January, in which he said Aragoncillo wanted to talk to the official "to give you some updates on the political situation in the country."

The complaint quoted Aquino as saying that "a change in leadership is boiling and that it is just a matter of time."

## Exact address

Pimentel said he would not be surprised if he was implicated in the espionage case because he too received a couple of e-mails from Aquino.

In one e-mail, Aquino inquired if Pimentel knew the address of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, the senator said. In another, Aquino complained about the harassment he was being subjected to in the United States.

"I told him, I think I replied, 'I don't know exactly where he (Garcillano) is.' I heard he is in New Jersey ... That was the extent of my conversation with him," Pimentel told reporters, saying he received the e-mails from Aquino "two or three weeks ago."

Pimentel said he never heard from Aquino again until the news of his arrest on Monday. The senator also said that he received voluminous e-mails on his mobile phone, but had yet to open them.

"Now that this thing about Michael Ray Aquino's involvement and alleged violation of US laws have come about, I wouldn't be surprised if they're trying to implicate me there," he said.

## Not me

Pimentel earlier tipped off the press to the possibility Garcillano, suspected of conspiring with President Macapagal-Arroyo to rig last year's presidential elections, had fled to New Jersey.

For his part, Golez, one of the members of the House of Representatives who called for the impeachment of Ms Arroyo, said he was also on Aquino's mailing list.

But Golez said he did not receive intelligence reports that might have been culled from the FBI's confidential files. He said he had reviewed the few e-mails that Aquino had sent him from June to July and "found them all clean."

"So, (the second level Philippine official being referred to in the espionage case involving Aquino and Aragoncillo is) not me," the congressman said.

Golez, who was appointed national security adviser after Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001, denied knowing Aragoncillo. He resigned as national security adviser to run for Congress in 2004.

## House hearing on Garci tape

Golez told the INQUIRER that he got a social greeting via e-mail from Aquino when the House hearings on the wiretapped conversations between the President and Garcillano on the alleged rigging of the 2004 elections began three months ago.

He said he was then placed on Aquino's mailing list which included alumni of the Philippine Military Academy, particularly former police officers belonging to PMA Class '88.

"Nope, I never got any report from him. I just received a social greeting when the wiretapping hearings started in June and reminded me of our exchange at the height of the anti-Estrada rallies in late 2000," Golez said, referring to the personal correspondence between him and Aquino.

Golez said Aquino later included him for a time in his group e-mails regarding his comments on the case involving Ms Arroyo. "But definitely no reports, no information."

"I note from the INQUIRER article (yesterday) that Aragoncillo was the one sending the e-mails to Aquino and others. I never got e-mails from him (Aragoncillo)," Golez said.

Asked if it was possible that the information he received was similar to those received by Lacson, Golez said: "No, I didn't see Ping's e-mail address in the group e-mail."

## Cordial

Estrada said he could not understand why his name was being linked to the case when he had been in detention the last four years since plunder and perjury charges were filed against him in the Sandiganbayan Special Division.

"*Bakit nila ako isasama sa gulong yan? Wala naman akong alam sa kinasasangkutan nya* (Why would they include me in that mess? I know nothing about issues involving him)," Estrada said.

"I no longer have any contact with him (Aragoncillo) or Michael Ray Aquino, who is my godson," the former President said.

Earlier, Estrada confirmed he knew Aragoncillo. He described his relationship with Aragoncillo as "cordial."

Estrada said he again met Aragoncillo and other "balikbayan" when they paid him a visit at Malacañang some time after his visit to the United States.

A source from the opposition said Aragoncillo and Estrada were introduced to each other by then US President Bill Clinton during Estrada's visit to the White House early during his term.

## *Leandro Aragoncillo*

PHOTO of Aragoncillo in the Thomasian 1979 yearbook.

**ALIASES used:** Juan Miguel; JM

**Age:** 46 years old

**Birthplace:** Philippines; came to United States in 1984

**Citizenship:** American, naturalized in 1991

**Family:** Wife, two children

Home: Woodbury, New Jersey. While with the US Marine Corps, his address was Sampaloc, Manila

**Education:** BSC in Accounting, College of Commerce, University of Santo Tomas, 1979

**Occupation:** FBI Intelligence Analyst. Hired July 2004; suspended Sept. 12, 2005

Retired US Marine with 21 years service, 1983-2004. Aragoncillo enlisted on Sept. 30, 1983, and was living in Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines at the time. He did administrative data entry for his first nine years of service and was an administration chief for the last 11.

Gunnery Sergeant. Stationed in Japan, Guantanamo Bay, Quantico, Virginia. Assignment to the White House between 1999 and 2002 as "administration chief" of the security detail assigned to Vice President Cheney.

**Awards:** While with the US Marines, he won numerous commendations, including the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with Gold Star), and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (with two Gold Stars).

On Sept. 17 last year, he was honored as Outstanding Thomasian in the field of foreign military service by University of Sto. Tomas' College of Commerce during the college's 71st anniversary celebration.

**Arrested:** Sept. 10, 2005. He has been ordered held without bail because prosecutors said he and co-accused Michael Ray Aquino were flight risks.

**Charges:**

- Knowingly communicating classified information by a government employee to an agent or representative of a foreign country (i.e. receiving classified information).
- Acting as an agent of a foreign official without notifying the Attorney General in violation of Title 18 of the US Code, Section 951.
- Unauthorized use of a government computer to obtain and transmit classified information.
- Conspiracy to commit all of the above offenses in violation of Title 18 of the US Code Section 371.

The charge of conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent carries a sentence of up to 10 years and a $250,000 fine. The charge of unauthorized use of a government computer carries a sentence of up to 10 years and a $250,000 fine.

**Dates of Spying:** January 2005 to August 2005.

**Possible motivations:** $500,000 in debts, mostly mortgages.

**Others:** His neighbors in the Heritage Woods development, located off County House Road, Woodbury, New Jersey, were shocked upon learning he had been arrested, saying Aragoncillo was liked and respected. One neighbor said, "I know he loved the Philippines. He took his son there to see where he grew up."

*Sources: US Department of Justice and The Center for Counterintelligence and Security Studies websites, wire reports, PDI archives*

# He made 15 trips to RP in 5 years

From page A1

Aquino for allegedly transmitting classified information to Filipino leaders.

He last visited the Philippines on June 12. He left on July 3. It was his first, and so far only, visit to the country this year. It was also his longest in five years.

He made one trip to the country in 2000. He arrived on Sept. 2 and left six days later. It was his shortest trip.

Aragoncillo made the most trips to the country in 2002, coming here five times. His first visit that year was on Jan. 9 and he left on Jan. 27. His other trips were from March 12 to 29, July 18 to 31, Sept. 30 to Oct. 12, and Nov. 14 to 24.

He made three trips each to the Philippines in 2001 and 2004.

In 2001, Aragoncillo first flew into the country on Jan. 10 and left on Jan. 18, which was shortly before the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada. He returned on April 12 and left on the 24th. He also flew in on July 8 and left on the 15th.

In 2004, he was here from March 12 to 25, June 12 to 19, and Sept. 16 to 26.

Aragoncillo visited the Philippines twice in 2003. He first came on Jan. 18 and left on Feb. 1. His next trip was on July 14 and he left on July 30.

In the five years he was flying in and out of the country, he came here three times each in the months of January, July and September. He flew in twice in the months of January and June, and only once each in November and April.

BI Executive Director Roy Almoro said the Aragoncillo listed in immigration records and whose birth date was Sept. 22, 1958, had the same reported age, 46, as the arrested FBI analyst. Aragoncillo would thus be turning 47 next week.

His middle name was listed as Aparente.

Aragoncillo also had two recorded addresses in the Philippines, both in Sampaloc, Manila. One was on Simon Street and the other on Algeciras Street.

# United States of America v. Leandro Aragoncillo and Michael Ray Aquino

*(The Inquirer is running the criminal complaint filed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation against Michael Ray Aquino, a former officer of the Philippine National Police, and Leandro Aragoncillo, an FBI intelligence analyst, who were arrested Saturday in the United States on espionage charges.*

*PDI Research downloaded the 17-page complaint from the website of the US Department of Justice.*

*The names of the three Philippine officials were deleted in the complaint posted on the website.)*

*(Second of two parts)*

Transmissions #2 and #3

Please read the attached information for your personal consumption. As previously requested, protect the source. . . .

As with regard to . . . information. This was relayed to you, as an inside-information. This could be deceptive information provided to us by . . . . But at least, you know what's going on . . . . I also included info on . . . and I do intend to provide you future information as needed. [] is not a complete case and on-going, so please do not disseminate to anyone. Again, the rest are CLOSE-HOLD information.

Note: Ninoy if the e-mail address is incorrect, please resend the information. JM (emphasis in original). Shortly after receiving this e-mail, a reply was sent from Public Official #2's Yahoo Account to the Aragoncillo's Hotmail Account, that provided, in pertinent part, as follows: JM I find all the information that you are sending me very useful. I hope you will continue sending more. . . .

Just for curiosity, who else at our end share these (sic) information.

My warm regards.

[Public Official #2]

Records reveal that the titles and dates of the January 18th Classified Documents correspond to at least four documents classified at the "Confidential" and "Secret" levels. 3 The actual March 3rd Document was not forwarded by Yahoo!, but the title of the attachment is referenced in the email.

ACS records reveal that a comparison of a document from a federal department downloaded by Aragoncillo from ACS on the morning of March 3, to the information contained in the e-mail

- 10 -

Transmissions #2 and #3

16. Records from Hotmail reveal that on or about February 24, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the ARAGONCILLO Hotmail Account to Public Official #2's Yahoo! Account containing an attached document that is a compilation of classified information contained in six classified documents marked at the "Secret" level relating to Public Official #2 and the Philippines (the "February 24th Classified Documents"). In addition to the attachment, the e-mail contained, in pertinent part, the following message:

[Public Official #2],

I was researching my archived files a while ago, trying to link . . with any future plots or preplanned plots.

And I came with the attached information. I'm not going to ask you the veracity of the report. This is just FYI.

JM

17. Records from Yahoo! reveal that on or about February 24, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Aquino Yahoo! Account to the Aragoncillo Hotmail Account containing the following message, "I read the archived file . . . I placed my comment (sic) opposite or below each paragraph." The e-mail also contained an attached copy of the February 24th Classified Documents with Aquino's "comments" referenced in the e-mail message described above. From these sequences of events, it appears that defendant AQUINO reviewed and edited the February 24th Classified Documents.

Transmissions #4 and #5

18. On or about March 3, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Aragoncillo Hotmail Account to Public Official #2's Yahoo Account with, among other things, a document marked "Sensitive But Unclassified" (the "March 3rd Document")3, and the following message and the title of the March 3rd Document, is almost identical.

- 11 -

message:

[Public Official #2],

Please take note that the USG is aware of your tribulations in passing an important bill. . . . Also please take note of the . . USG is concern (sic) about the defense treaty . . Please advise.

JM

19. On or about March 3, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Aquino Yahoo! Account to the Aragoncillo Hotmail Account1 responding, as set forth in relevant part, to the above e-mail forwarding the March 3rd Document to Public Official #2's Yahoo! Account:

JM,

[] is in China right now. My classmate, . . who is his admin officer is with him.

Ninoy

Transmissions #6 and #7

20. On or about April 6 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Aragoncillo Hotmail Account to Public Official #1's Yahoo! Account attaching, among other things, a federal department document classified at the "Confidential" level (the April 6th Classified Document"), together with the following message:

[Public Official #2]

Could you give me a back-brief of you meeting with . . . I was on my way home today and the text message I sent you was an after-thought . . . . I informed that . . . is not the best solution for the Philippines and the Filipinos. I would rather you takeover - if the constitution would suggest, rather than them. . . .

- 12 -

. . . We will support you.

JM

21. On or about April 6, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Aquino Yahoo! Account to an account registered to defendant ARAGONCILLO's wife attaching the April 6th Classified Document, together with the following message, "Confid".

Transmissions #8 and 9

22. Records from Yahoo! reveal that on or about May 27, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Aragoncillo Yahoo! Account to Public Official #3's Yahoo! Account, along with two attached documents, and the following message:

[Public Official #3],

The attached documents . . . are classified as highly sensitive. Please protect accordingly. [Public Official #1] was provided with a copy, but did not receive instruction from him if the . . . info should be forwarded to you. I took the initiative that you are working on a highly sensitive information . . . and should be aware of the current situation.

As I have instructed other recipients, please protect the source.

JM (a/k/a Leand)

Later the same day, Public Official #3's Yahoo! Account was used to send an e-mail to the Aragoncillo Yahoo! Account containing the follow response:

Lean,

You can count on me. Your document is accurately perfect. If there are confidential matters that you wish to share, don't hesitate because I was fully trained in this endeavor. I was the one who established the . . . .

Any suggestion that you may volunteer at any point in time will be highhly (sic) welcomed and appreciated.

- 13 -

Thanks for the important info.

[Public Official #3]

ACS records reveal that one of the attached documents referenced above is from a federal department and is classified at the "Confidential" level.

Transmission #10

23. Records obtained from Yahoo! reveal that on or about June 10, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Aragoncillo Yahoo! Account to Public Official #2's Yahoo! Account with an attachment containing information classified by a federal department at the "Secret" level relating to the Philippines, together with the following e-mail message: "From today's Executive Briefing."

Transmission #11

24. Records obtained from Yahoo! reveal that on or about July 5, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Aragoncillo Yahoo! Account to a Yahoo! Account linked to Public Official #1 with an attachment containing information classified by a federal department at the "Secret" level relating to the Philippines, together with the following e-mail message:

PLEASE PASS TO [Public Official #1]:

The attached information are combination of those we've missed while I was in the Philippines. However, they must be read in their entirety to understand where the opposition stands.

. . .

I spoke with [Public Official #3] a while ago and requested an update on the current political situation. I informed him that I will provide him information, but later changed my mind. I'd rather have you relay whatever information you might want to share with (sic).

Please protect the source.

JM

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Transmissions #12 and #13

25. ACS records reveal that on or about July 25 and 26, 2005, defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO downloaded several documents from federal departments, from his computer located at the FMITC. One of the documents relates to the Philippines and is classified at the "Secret" level (the "July 26th Classified Document").

26. Records obtained from Yahoo! reveal that on or about July 26, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Argoncillo Yahoo! Account to an account linked to Public Official #1 that attached the July 26th Classified Document, and included a message, that stated, in pertinent part, "PLEASE PASS TO [Public Official #1]".

27. Records from Yahoo! further reveal that an e-mail from the Aragoncillo Yahoo! Account was sent to Public Official #2's Yahoo! Account with the July 26th Classified Document, and the following message:

Details of what we have discussed via text awhile ago. I don't know how . . . would be employed, but the attached RX from . . suggested that . . sought USG's reaction .

JM

Transmissions #14 and #15

28. ACS records reveal that on the morning of August 5, 2005, defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO downloaded a document from a federal department relating to the Philippines and marked at the "Secret" level (the "August 5th Classified Document") to his assigned computer at the FMITC. Video surveillance agents observed defendant ARAGONCILLO place a diskette into the disk drive of the computer located at his workstation, remove the diskette, and place the diskette into a personal bag located on the floor of his cubicle. At the end of defendant ARAGONCILLO's workday, video monitoring agents observed him leave his cubicle with his personal bag. Physical surveillance agents observed defendant ARAGONCILLO exit the FMITC building with his personal bag, enter his automobile, and depart the FMITC parking lot. The physical surveillance agents maintained continuous visual contact of defendant ARAGONCILLO driving his automobile to his residence

- 15 -

in Woodbury, New Jersey. Finally, the physical surveillance agents observed defendant ARAGONCILLO park his automobile in the driveway, and enter his residence with his personal bag.

29. Records obtained from Yahoo! further reveal that after returning to his residence from the FMITC on August 5, 2005, the Aragoncillo Yahoo! Account was used to send an e-mail to an account linked to Public Official #1 attaching the August 5th Classified Document, and providing, in pertinent part, the following message:

PLEASE PASS TO [Public Official #1]:

. . . Sensitive Report: We have credible intelligence . . I asked one of our contacts in the Philippines to validate this intel report.

JM

30. Records from Yahoo! further reveal that on or about August 7, 2005, the Aragoncillo Yahoo! Account was used to send the August 5th Classified Document to Public Official #2's Yahoo! Account, along with the following message:

[Public Official #2],

The attached documents are provided for your own consumption. These are for tomorrow's daily morning briefings . . . .

JM

Transmission #16

31. Records from Yahoo! reveal that on or about August 25, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Aragoncillo Yahoo! Account to a Yahoo! account linked to Public Official #1 together with a three-page, document from a federal department classified at the "Confidential" level (the "August 25th Classified Document"). The e-mail contained the attached message, which is provided in pertinent part:

PLEASE PASS TO [Public Official #1]:

According to the attached information . . . advisers are highly opposed to your . . . You have to check with . . . next time you see him and ask him where the . . . stands at the moment. By no means would you show this

- 16 -

information to any . . . . I will be affected severely. Again, please protect the source - ME. .

JM (emphasis in original).

32. Shortly after this e-mail was sent, defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO placed a call to Public Official #1 regarding the August 25th Classified Document. The following exchange took place during the conversation. ARAGONCILLO: Tomorrow I'll send you uh . . . it's three pages . . . huh?

Public Official #1: Who are they?

ARAGONCILLO: No, three pages, it came from Bayside it was sent to us just now. It came in this morning. Morning my time . . . earlier around 7:30. I talked to . . . and I told . . . "Please forward it to [Public Official #1]" . . . . Public Official #1: What's that? Does that mean they're just playing with me?

ARAGONCILLO: That's how the letter was written, sir.

Just to uh . . read it so you would understand it . . .

Transmission #17

33. Records obtained from Yahoo! reveal that on or about August 26, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the ARAGONCILLO Yahoo! Account to Public Official's #2's Yahoo! Account attaching the August 25th Classified Document, along with the following message:

Please read the attached info and provide any comments that you might have. I will continue to send you updates, if needed.

However, if this is becoming a nuisance, please let me know.

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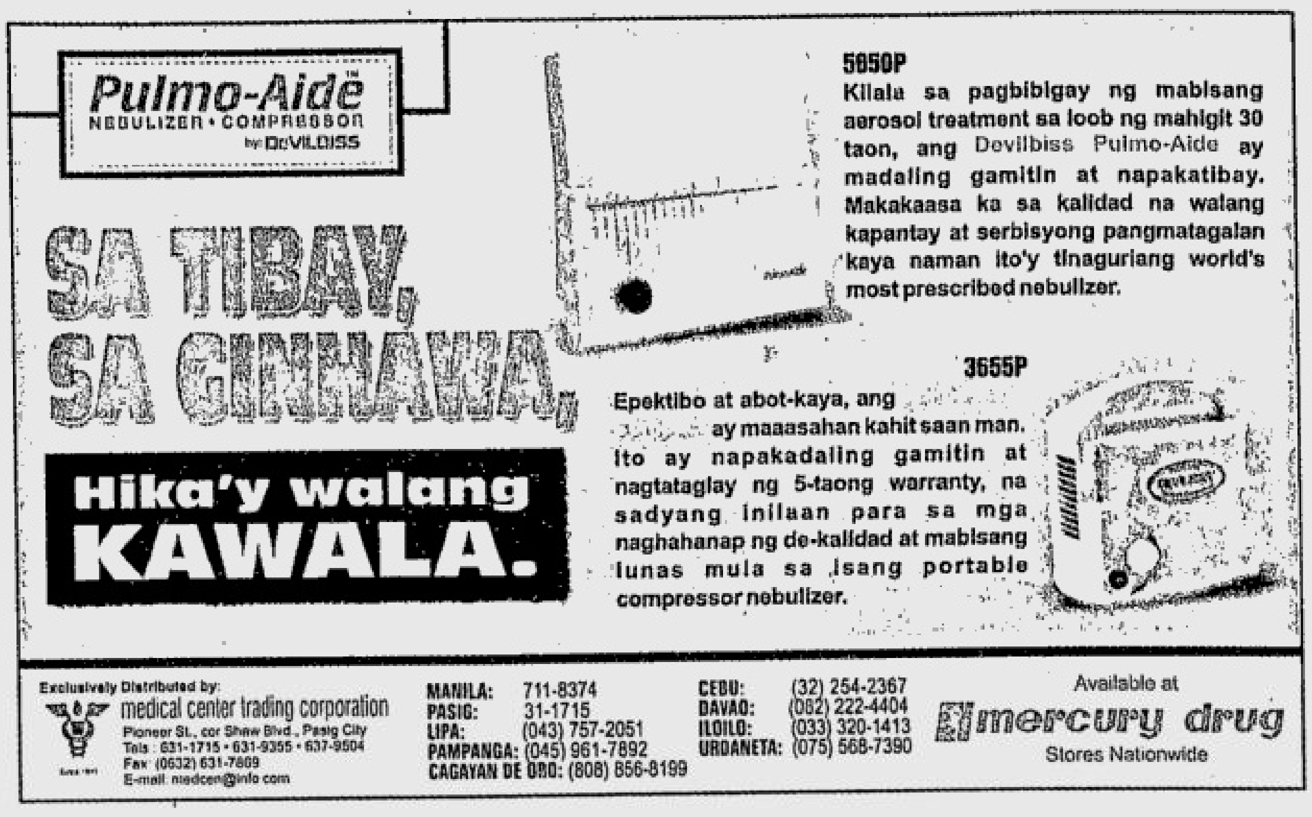
JM

34. On or about August 28, 2005, defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO received a text message on his cellular telephone from a telephone linked to Public Official #2 containing the following message: "What you are sending are (sic) never a nuisance to me. They are in fact informative and very useful."

35. It is respectfully submitted that this Court issue an Order sealing, until further order of this Court, all papers submitted in support of this Complaint, including the Complaint and Affidavit Sealing is necessary because premature disclosure of the contents of these items may have a negative impact on this continuing investigation and may jeopardize its effectiveness.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**3655P**
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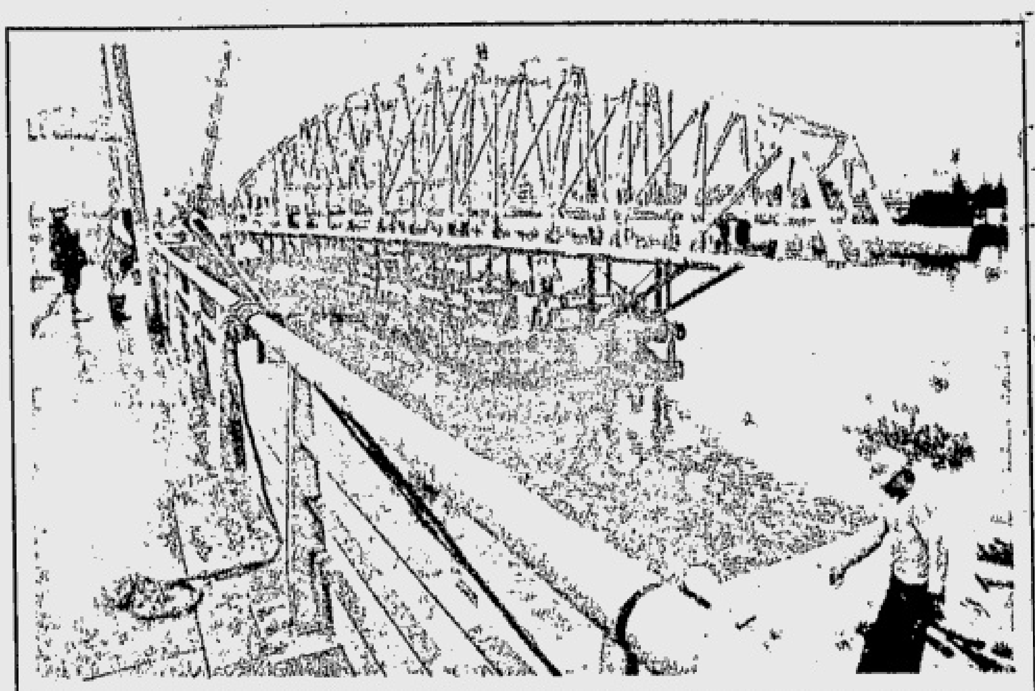

**NEW PIPELINE IN PLACE.** An all-steel 1.2 meter diameter pipeline was winched into position alongside the historic Lambingan Bridge in Sta. Ana yesterday to bring clean water 24 hours a day to over 70, 000 households in one of the oldest sections of Manila. (Story on Page A23)

REM ZAMORA

BECOME THE MOST CREATIVE TOWN!

Lady's Choice
Christmasterpiece
BAYANIHANG PASKO 2005

The First Inter-Town Christmas Landmark Making Contest

Win P1 Million Creative Center Endowment!

CONTEST MECHANICS:

I.
The Contest is open to all interested groups with at least 10 team members who are legal residents of the Philippines [illegible] build the most creative Christmas Landmark.
The Contest theme will be: Bayanihang Pasko.
This Contest is done in partnership with LCP, LMP or LGUs, accredited civic groups, schools and partners.

II.
A participating team must register in order to join the Contest.
A team may register as many times as possible.
As an option, the city or town mayor may choose to assign an accredited civic group to represent his/her town or city.

III.
Participating team will secure a Set of Forms from the CEMG Office/Area Coordinators, Mayor's Office, Project Partners, or download the forms from the Website: www.ladyschoice.ph.

1 Form 1 – Registration Form (in duplicate)
2 Form 2 – Waiver
3 Form 3 – Mayor's Certification
4 Form 4 – Certificate of Structural Stability

IV.
Participating Team registers using Form 1 and submits said form on or before Oct. 15, 2005 by fax, mail or e-mail to CEMG at the following address:

Lady's Choice Christmasterpiece
c/o CEMG
Unit 7B Vernida 1 Bldg.
120 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village,
Makati City 1229
E-mail: edames_cemg@pldtdsl.net
Fax No: (632) 8929176

V.
Each entry must be at least 15 feet in height. Each entry must use a minimum of 100 empty jars of the New Lady's Choice Mayonnaise or Spreads (of any size). The criteria for judging are as follows:

1 Creativity – 40%

2 Town Participation – 25%

3 Extent of use of the new Lady's Choice jars – 25% (Lady's Choice Egg-Shaped [illegible] for Mayonnaise or Spread) as shown below:

4 Use of Indigenous Materials – 10%

To qualify for judging, all participants must submit the following ORIGINAL documents in a sealed envelope on or before November 7, 2005 to:

Lady's Choice Christmasterpiece
c/o CEMG
Unit 7B Vernida 1 Bldg.
120 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City 1229

(Entries postmarked after Nov. 7, 2005 shall not be accepted.)

1 Colored analog or digital photo/s of the participants/team members working on the entry at the start of the project; during construction and upon project completion.

2.A colored analog or digital photo of the completed landmark taken from the front, right, left, back angles.

3. All entries must be accompanied by a Waiver (Form 2); the mayor's endorsement (Form 3); and a certification of structural soundness and stability by the city or town engineer (Form 4).

VI.
All teams must mount their entries in a centrally situated location selected by the organization on or before November 10, 2005. Entries must remain at the site until January 15, 2006.

All entries must be ready for inspection by CEMG or its representatives on or before November 10, 2005.

CEMG Representatives shall certify to the compliance of each entry to the contest rules. Video/photo documentation shall serve as part of the verification process.

A panel of judges shall choose 12 finalists before November 23, 2005.

The judges' decision is final.

The work of these finalists shall be included in the Lady's Choice 2006 Calendar.

Each Finalist Team shall receive a plaque of recognition and a cash prize of Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Tax Free).

VII.
The judging at the National Level shall be undertaken in Manila on November 28-29, 2005 by a panel of 5 judges.

The National Winning Team shall be announced on or before December 9, 2005 through print, radio and tv.

To formally announce the winning team, Unilever shall hold a celebratory show before Dec. 23, 2005 in the winning town.

The National Winning Town or City shall receive an endowment for a Lady's Choice Creativity Center worth One Million Pesos (Tax Free).
The National Winning Team shall receive a cash prize of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Tax Free).
The accredited socio-civic organization* that sponsors the Winning National Team shall receive a cash prize of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Tax Free).

Lady's Choice reserves the right to approve the choice of the site for the [illegible] Creativity Center. It shall be named as the Lady's Choice Creativity Center. The Winning Town/City shall provide the land and building for the Lady's Choice Creativity Center.

VIII.
Unilever Phils. Inc., CEMG Inc. and its media, advertising agencies and sponsors shall not be responsible for any injury or damage that may result from the construction, preparation, inspection, transport, mounting, viewing or dismantling of the entries by any of the participants, spectators or the general public.

By joining the contest, the participants, their parents, guardians and/or legal representatives warrant and represent that the entry is their sole and original work product and release, discharge, indemnify and agree to hold harmless Unilever Phils., CEMG Inc. and its directors, officers, trustees, employees, agents, attorneys, representatives, successors and assigns from all other claims, demands, damages, causes of action, [illegible] known or unknown of any kind, nature or description whatsoever which the [illegible] heirs, executors, successors or assigns may have or claim to have against Unilever Phils., CEMG Inc., its directors, officers, trustees, employees, agents, attorneys, representatives, successors and assigns arising out of participation in or acceptance of any prize in connection with the contest, including any future use of the submitted entries and the use of the contestants' names, biographical information, photos, video and print materials in press releases, print, tv, radio and other mass media, including but not limited to SMS, MMS or Internet or any web-based applications.

* Only organizations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Association of Foundations, League of Corporate Foundations, and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) [illegible] are considered as accredited socio-civic organizations.

For inquiries, please contact: CEMG
Unit 7B Vernida 1 Bldg. 120 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229
Telephone Nos. 897-5442 / 892-9176

Unilever

PARTNERS

Per DOH-BFAD Permit # 1023 Series of 2005

# 'Water bridge' now open

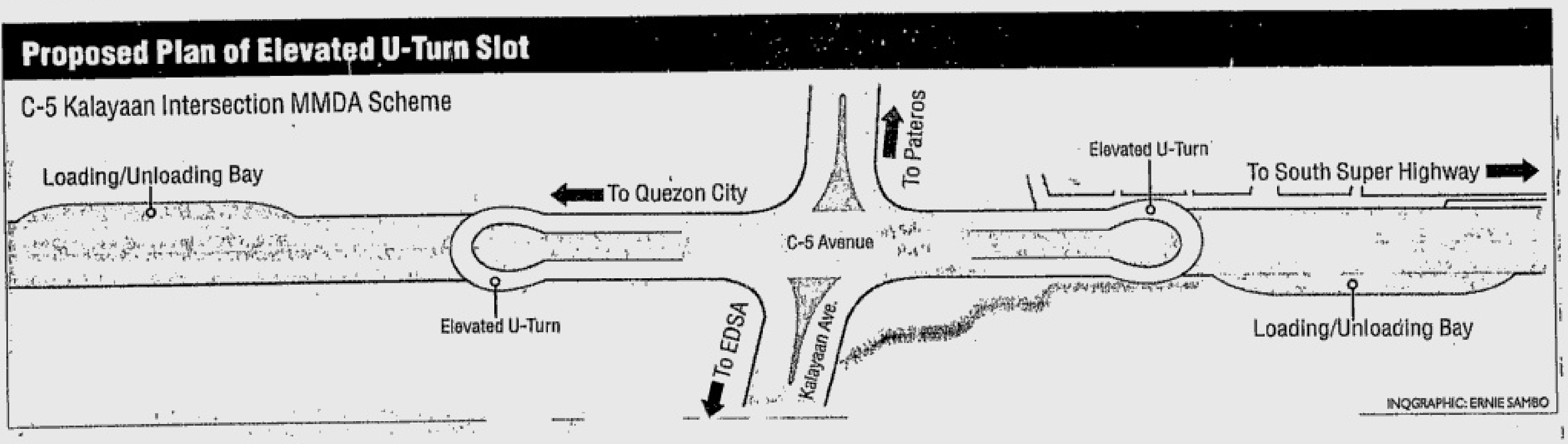
By Tina G. Santos

WATER CONCESSIONAIRE Manila Water assured Manila residents of clean and adequate water supply after it inaugurated part of a P355 million water infrastructure project yesterday morning.

Joel Lacsamana, corporate communications director of Manila Water, said the project, in partnership with the city government, would benefit over 70,000 households, particularly in the districts of Sta. Ana and San Andres. "It will also solve the water quality problems that have long plagued these areas because of old pipes and illegal connections," he said.

The A. Rita Pipe Bridge project involves an all-steel 1.2 meter diameter pipeline built at the cost of P75 million. It connects part of the 5.3 kilometer pipeline with underground sections now being laid out in San Juan, Mandaluyong, Makati and Manila.

Proposed Plan of Elevated U-Turn Slot



INQGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO

# Metro mayors to review MMDA plan for C5 traffic

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METRO MANILA COUNCIL (MMC) will evaluate the traffic management plan of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for the disputed C5-Kalayaan intersection in Makati City.

"The mayors want the MMDA to present its studies to the MMC regarding its plan for C5-Kalayaan," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando told reporters shortly after the council's meeting yesterday afternoon.

The MMC is the agency's policy-making body.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said the meeting, to be held next week, would "settle once and for all" the C5-Kalayaan issue. Some 90,000-100,000 vehicles pass through the intersection every day.

Fernando and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay have not agreed on which project to implement.

The MMDA plans to ease traffic at the intersection by constructing elevated U-turn slots.

On the other hand, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) planned to construct underground tunnels.

Binay and the Makati City council favored the DPWH scheme, which was all set for construction, financed by a P500-million loan.

But the DPWH told city hall in July that it could not get the necessary "implementation permit" from the MMDA. It "proposed to cancel the implementation as the time remaining is not enough to complete the project" by Sept. 26, when the loan for the project would lapse.

The letter was signed by DPWH Undersecretary Manuel Bonoan and addressed to Makati legislative staff officer Rodel Nayve.

Binay scored Fernando for not issuing the permit and said he would seek the revival of the DPWH project.

With Metro mayors now willing to listen to the MMDA's plan, Fernando hopes the elevated U-turn slots could now be built. He said they would cost only half the price of tunnels.

Under the MMDA scheme, vehicles on Kalayaan Avenue could no longer cross C5, which they do at present.

Instead, traffic from either side of the avenue would be redirected to elevated horseshoe-shaped turns on opposite sides of C5 Road. But vehicles already on both sides of C5 would be unaffected.

The DPWH plan, on the other hand, involves the construction of a 490-meter six-lane underpass in C5 Road that would cut through the intersection easing traffic overhead on Kalayaan Avenue.

"The elevated U-turn slots would be faster to build since it would take about six months, and would not close down the major artery to traffic," said Fernando.

# More policemen sought for Nayong Pilipino

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PASAY CITY IS BEEFING UP SECURITY inside its heritage park, Nayong Pilipino.

Charito Planas, executive secretary of Nayong Pilipino, said yesterday increased police visibility was needed in the area to secure the premises of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

"I am really worried about the security of the airport," said Planas in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

## Not qualified

She explained that though the park had its own security guards to look after the welfare of its visitors, the guards were "not qualified" to secure the areas bordering the airport.

## Borders

Nayong Pilipino, located along Naia Road, is close to both Naia 2 and Naia 3.

Naia 2 is separated from the park by the Philippine Village Hotel, but only a steel fence divides Naia 3 and the park.

## Security measures

In a previous interview, Supt. Ulpiano Lopez, deputy chief for operations of the Pasay City police, said the airport could be vulnerable to terrorist attacks through the park.

Planas had sought the assistance of the aviation security, the Manila International Airport Authority and the Pasay police led by its chief, Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco, to strengthen security measures in the park as well as the boundaries of the airport.

## Sub station

Meanwhile, Franco told the INQUIRER yesterday that a sub-station would be installed inside the park.

It would be a reinforcement of Pasay's Police Community Precinct 9.

## Bike patrol

A bike patrol unit would compose the sub-station, he said, adding there would be six policemen in the area initially.

## Police visibility

The increased police visibility was also aimed at attracting local and foreign tourists to the park, he said.

"There are a lot of tourists visiting the place. In fact, there are travelers who stay at the park while waiting for their flight," Planas said.

## Reinforcements

Planas hoped to have the reinforced police unit first week of October.

But she said it would depend on when the Memorandum of Agreement among the different agencies involved would be finalized.

## MOA awaited

"We are still in the process of finishing the Memorandum of Agreement," Planas said.

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# Chinese group hits 'smear drive'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

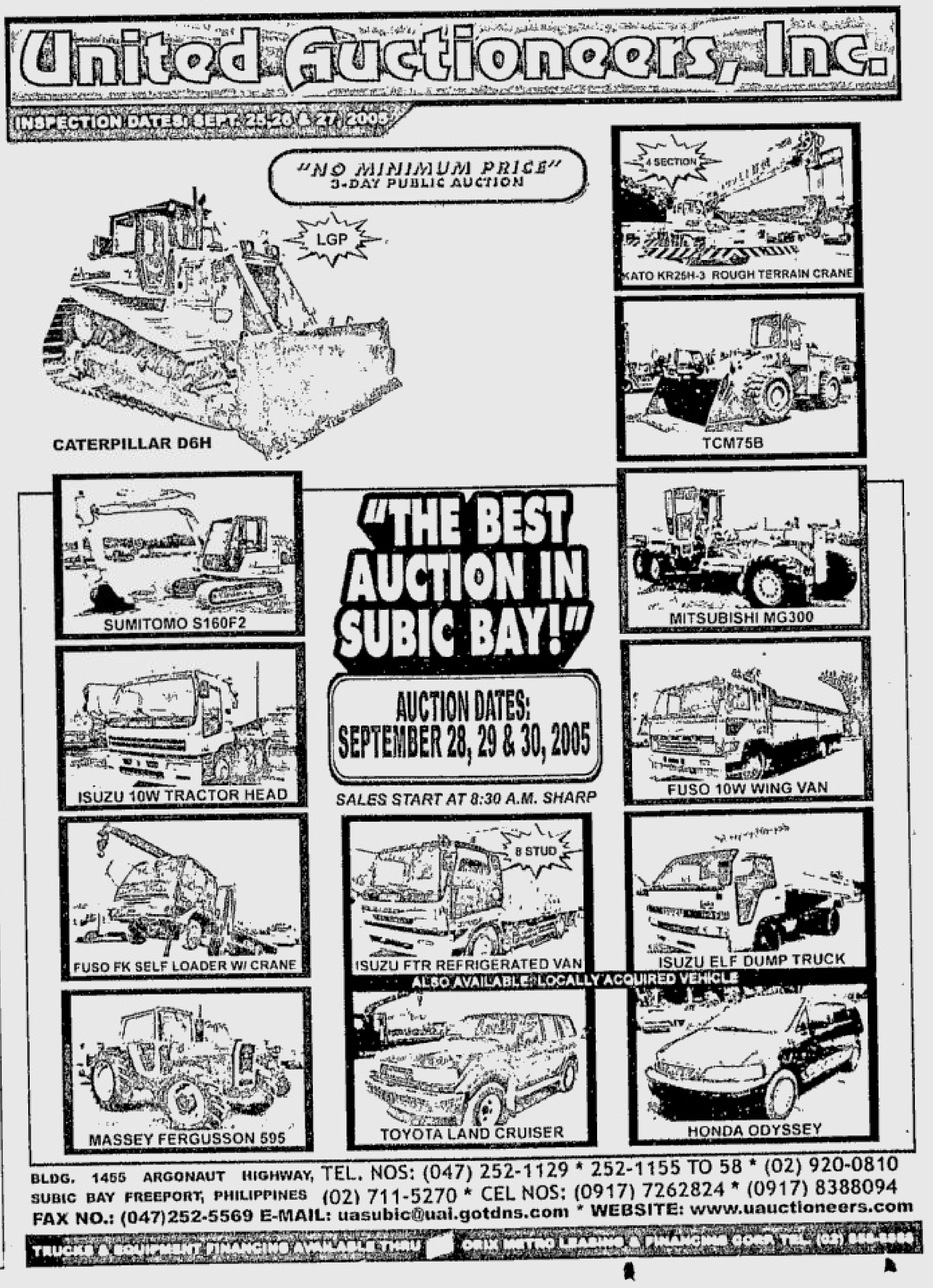
BRINGING THEIR FIGHT TO the Philippines, practitioners of a Chinese spiritual group yesterday filed libel charges against Chinese Embassy officials and four local Chinese newspapers based in Manila.

In a complaint filed in the Pasig City Prosecutors' Office yesterday, the group said the respondents had joined a worldwide smear campaign against their group Falun Gong.

Falun Gong is a more-than-a-decade old spiritual group which began in China "devoted to the self-improvement of the body, mind and spirit," the complainants said. The group had introduced the practice in the country five years ago to about 2,000 Filipinos, according to Jobo Lavina, a practioner.

Included in the complaint were Chinese Ambassador Hu Wong Bo, Deputy Chief of Mission Xiao Qian, the Chinese Commercial News, the World News, the United Daily News and the Sino-Fil Daily.

The group alleged that the four local newspapers published press releases from the embassy, calling the group an "evil cult," and a "public enemy," among other things. INQUIRER made several calls to the Chinese Embassy for comment, but it could not be reached.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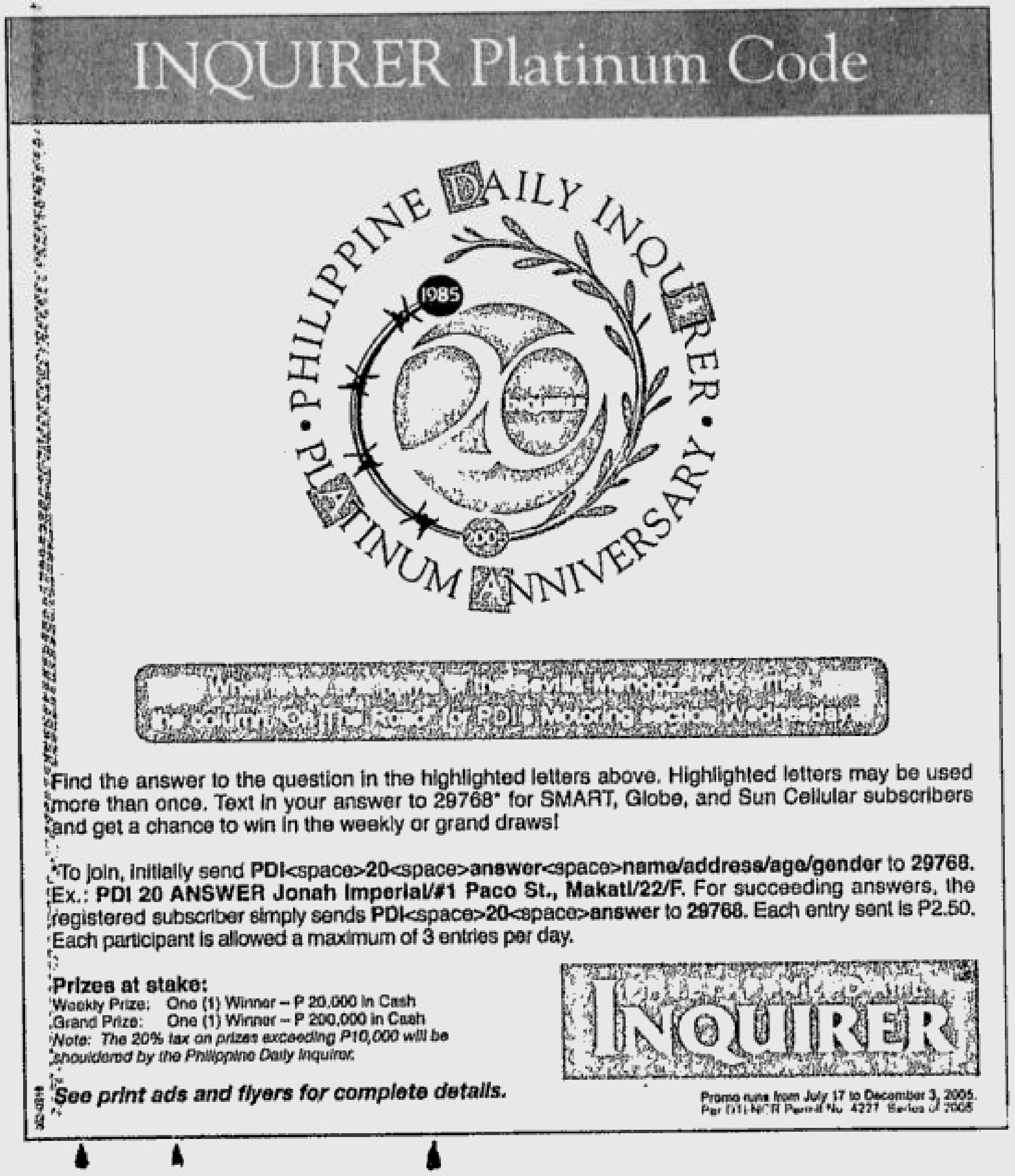
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# Traffic stops for men in blue, brown

'DI KAYA MAS NAKAKALI TO?

**By Tarra V. Quismundo**

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU SEE MEN IN brown and blue uniforms at the intersection of Taft Avenue and Edsa in Pasay City.

Men in blue and brown are now busy manning the busy intersection, as officers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Traffic Enforcement Group (MMDA-TEG) began sharing the job of managing traffic in the area with Pasay City's local traffic enforcers fondly called "Chocolate Boys."

"My men are already there, apprehending violators and removing obstructions on the road. Even if the Chocolate Boys are still there, we don't bother them. We just let them stay there," said Sr. Supt. Philmore Balmaceda, MMDA-TEG group chief.

## Complaints

This week, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando ordered the TEG to take over the intersection after the agency was swamped with complaints of traffic breakdown at the crowded crossing.

Traffic enforcers from the city government had long been manning the crossing.

Unfazed by Pasay City's opposition to the MMDA decision, Fernando said yesterday that the agency had all the right to make the intersection's traffic as its business, as Edsa was a major thoroughfare.

"Look at Quezon City, Mandaluyong, and Makati. They may have their own traffic enforcers, but they stay away from Edsa," Fernando told reporters yesterday.

"It's only the MMDA that can deputize traffic enforcers, not the other way around," the MMDA chief added.

Angelito Vergel de Dios, Executive Director of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center, said the agency's move was only meant to respond to public clamor for the MMDA to act on the traffic mess at Taft-Edsa.

The leading concern, he said, was the use of the intersection as a virtual terminal for jeepneys waiting for passengers.

## METROBRIEFS

### Honest cop a skilled sleuth

PO2 JAIME Aguinaldo Gonzales Jr. of the Northern Police District (NPD) Mobile Force turned out to be not only an honest cop but also a meticulous investigator. Gonzales found a wallet along Ayala St., Makati City belonging to Joiecelyn Turla containing P15,000 in cash, automated teller machine (ATM) and credit cards and a spare SIM (subscriber identity module) card. With no address and contact numbers to start his search, the policeman was able to find the owner by sending text messages to several persons listed in the SIM card. Turla said Gonzales' act reflected the kind of leadership at the NPD. Earlier, two Navotas policemen, also from the NPD, were cited for returning more than a million pesos in cash and checks taken in a robbery. Gonzales would also be commended for his honesty, police authorities said. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

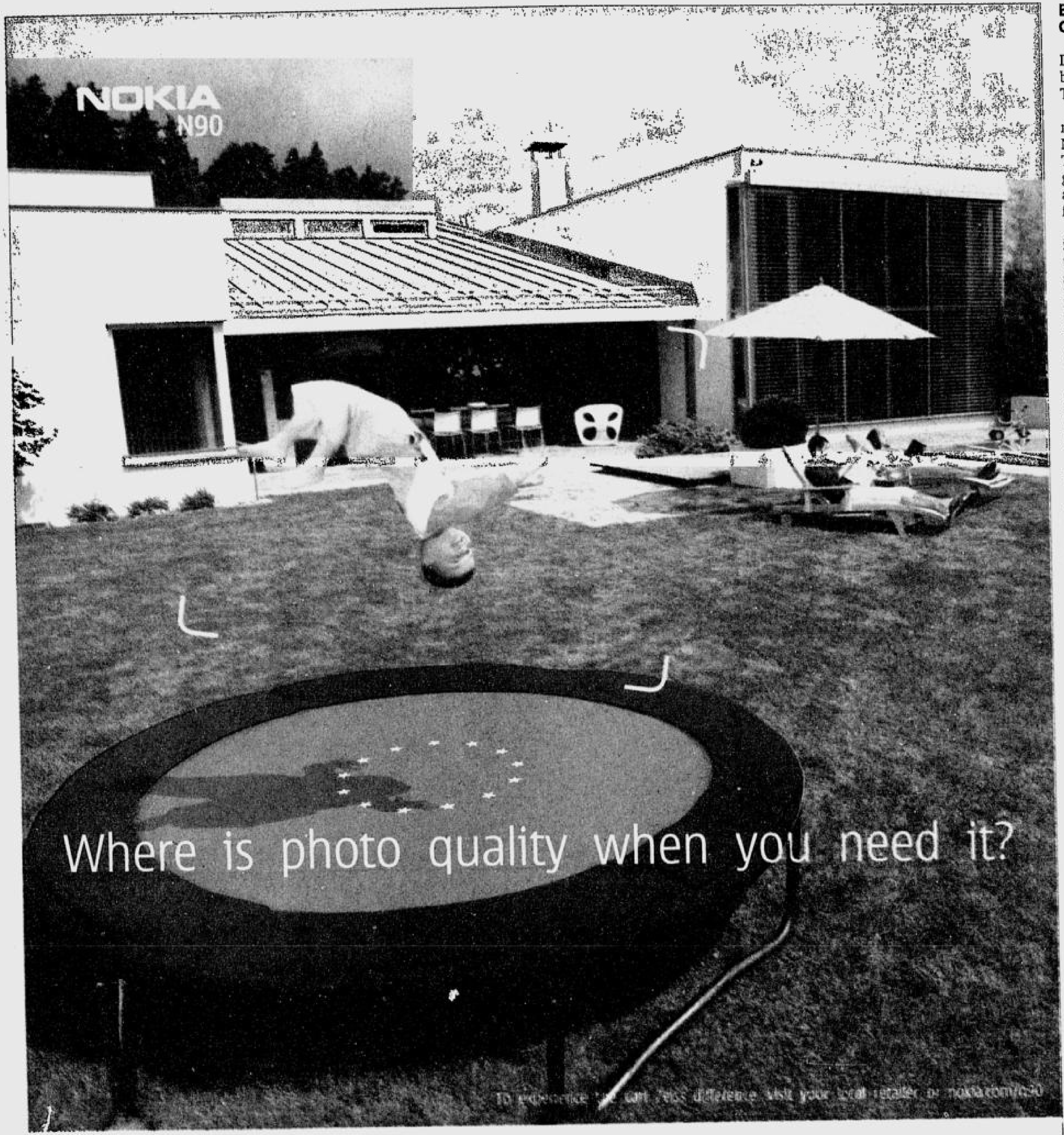
### Tips paid off

GINAWA KO LANG TUNGKULIN KO!

A TIPSTER who helped uncover a slew of illegal drug operations in Quezon City condominiums was lauded by the city government early this week. Watchman Reynaldo Viloria of the Nationwide Security Allied Services Agency was awarded a certificate of commendation for tipping narcotics agents about the activities of drug traders operating in condominiums in the city. This led to a series of raids at Lansbergh Place on Tomas Morato, City Tower Condominium on Aurora Boulevard, and P.G. Condominium on West Avenue. The anti-drug operations led to the confiscation of levorphanol and dextromoramide, both illegal substances. The Quezon City Anti-Drug Abuse Advisory Council also commended 57 Quezon City policemen, including four station commanders, for successful anti-illegal drug operations in the city. *DJ Yap*

### Sign language seminar

THE POSTSECONDARY Education Network-International, through its local partner, the School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, will hold a series of seminars on Filipino Sign Language from Sept. 16-17 at the DLS-CSB campus on Taft Avenue, Manila. For details, call 526-7441 to 46, local 239 or 164.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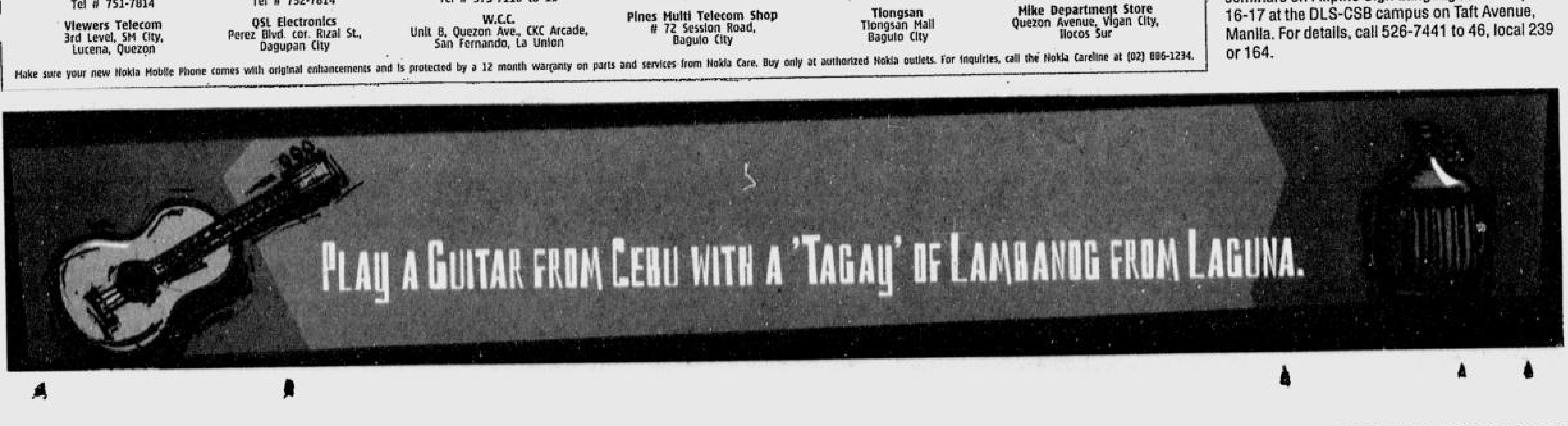
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**2 days to go before 23rd SEA Games**

## Stadium work can now begin

THE RUBBER MAT TO BE LAID ON THE ANCIENT Rizal Memorial track and field oval has arrived and the venue's contractor has asked the PSC for permission to work until midnight everyday. The Rizal oval is getting the most facelift among all SEA Games venues and track and field officials want it ready at least 15 days before the Games.

* * *

BADMINTON, a sport where the Philippines has not won a SEAG gold since 1977, has sent 18 athletes to Guangdong, China, for a one-month training. The shuttlers joined RP bets in football, volleyball and fencing undergoing final training in China, with the Philippine Sports Commission footing their bill. But observers are asking if the P1.1-million budget for the shuttlers' training will be enough to power the Filipinos past SEAG rivals like Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia. *Musong R. Castillo*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Archers untouchable still for Black, Eagles /A27
- Crack Fil-Am Perona joins SEA Games athletics squad /A26
- Manila readies big welcome for Pacquiao /A27

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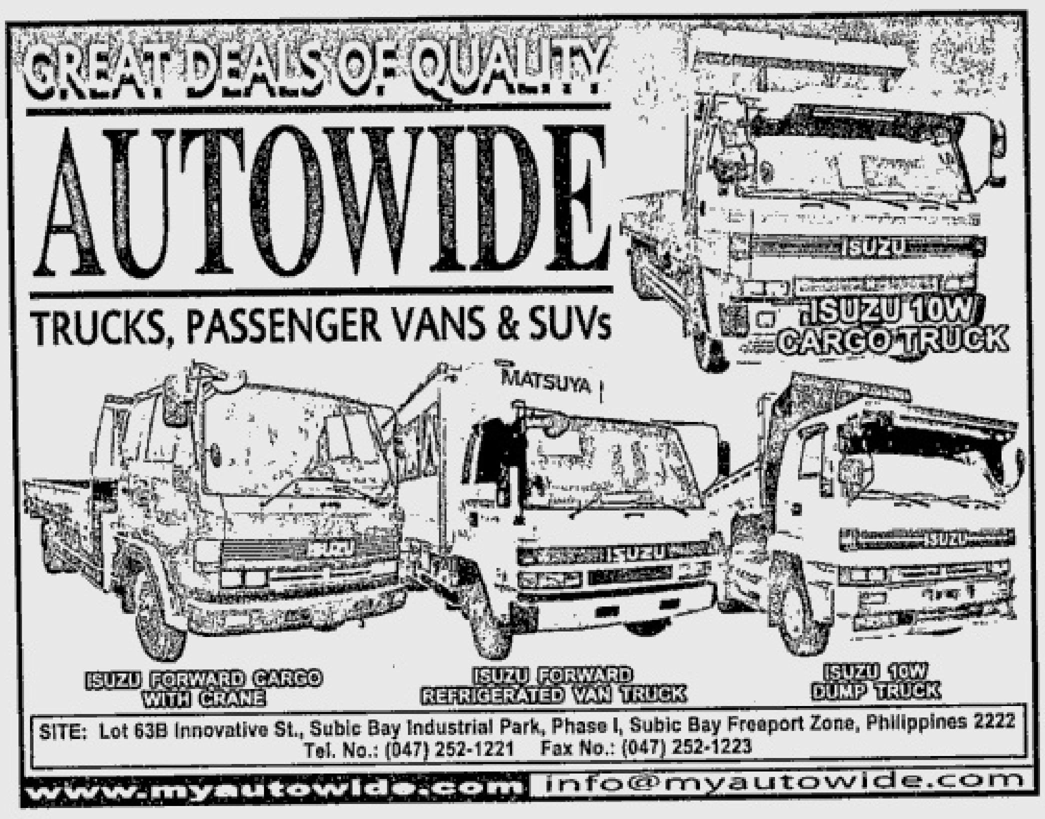
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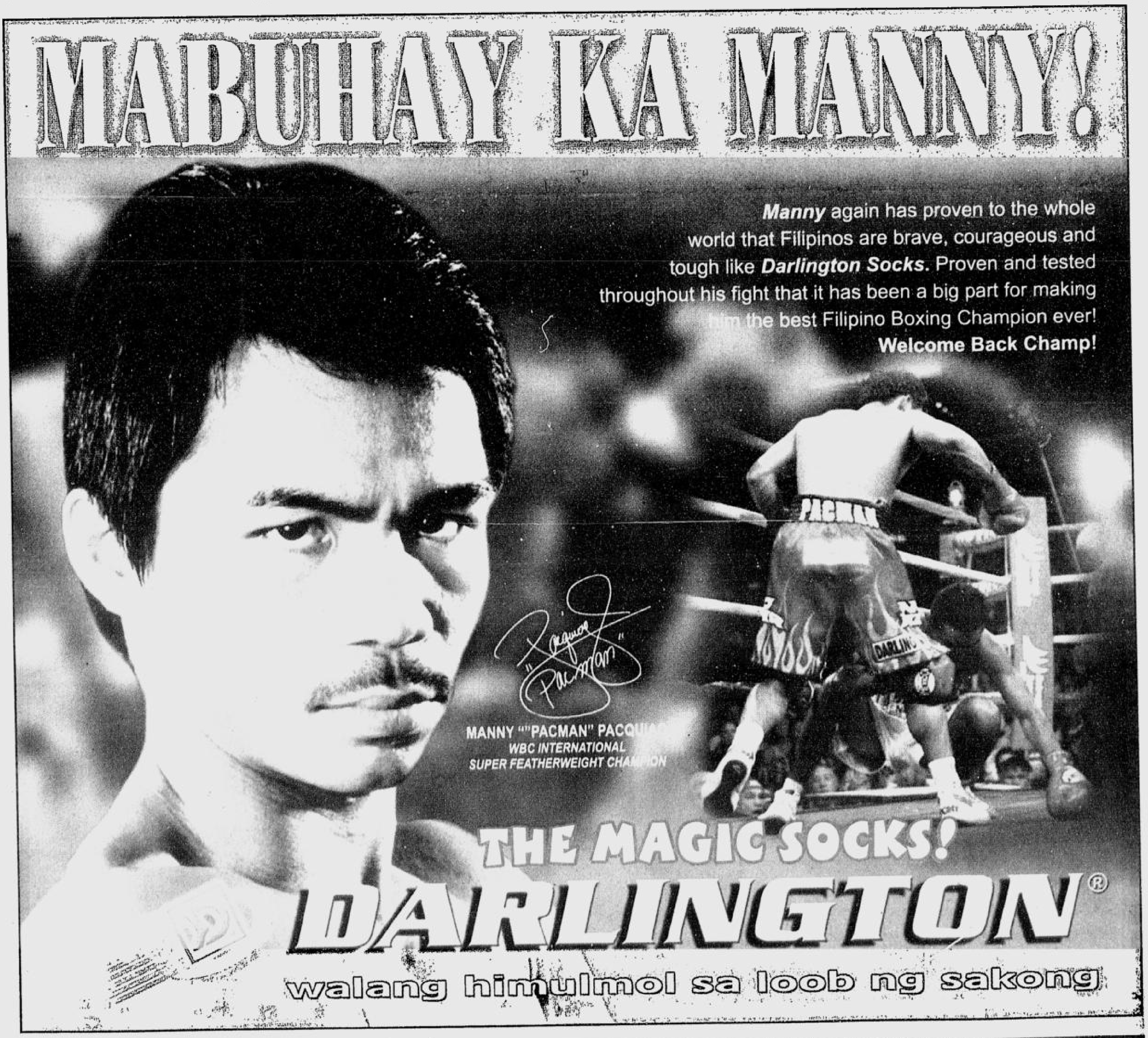
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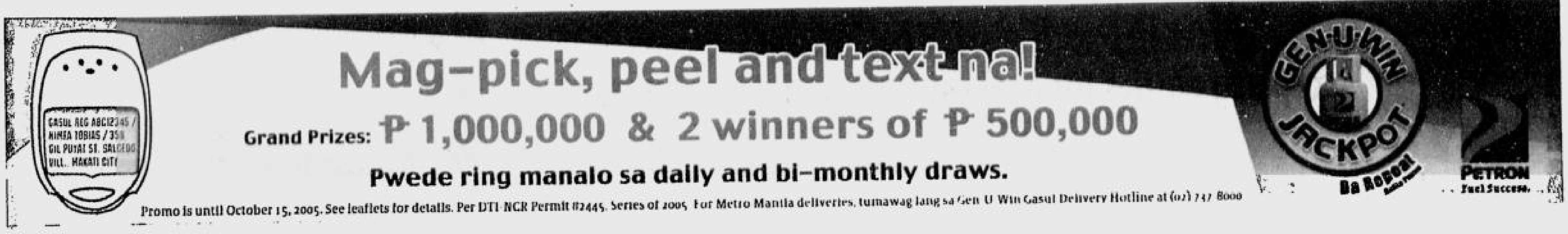
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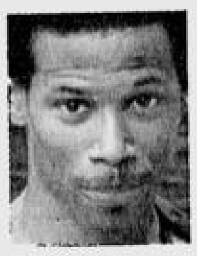
# Crack Fil-Am Perona joins SEA Games athletics squad



PERONA

TRACK AND FIELD'S BID FOR A HUGE GOLD haul in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games got a boost after Filipino-American Kashus Perona secured his Philippine passport in California recently.

The 27-year-old Perona, considered a sure gold medal winner in the 400 meters, finally formalized his claim to Filipino citizenship with the help of the Philippine Embassy.

"Perona's inclusion to the Philippine team will add to our gold haul," said athletics coach Jojo Posadas in Filipino.

Perona, a mobile phone staff in Los Angeles, will become the top RP bet in the 400m and further strengthen the 4x400m quartet. Perona beat RP No. 1 Ernie Candelario in the National Open last year, clocking 47.26 seconds. *Musong R. Castillo*

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# Boxing power with no program in place

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY WE ALL FEEL super after the triple knockout triumph of Filipino boxers in California on Sunday.

Jim Murray, Pulitzer Prize winner and 14 times US national sports writer of the year, provided the answer in describing his own countrymen.

Americans, he said, worship power. They want their heroes not merely to win but to crush the other guys.

"Split decisions and tiebreakers bore Americans," continued the legendary deadline beater. "They want one-round knockouts."

Filipinos are not very different from Americans when it comes to choosing and worshipping heroes.

In fact, we share practically the same mighty men, Superman, Rambo, who never resort to anything subtle in eliminating their enemies.

* * *

Now, it's easy to see why President Macapagal-Arroyo is doing everything to identify with Manny Pacquiao and the two other RP boxers who scored fantastic knockout wins at the Staples Center in LA.

The President also cries for a knockout win against those working to kick her out of office.

OK, the entire nation continues to pray for a worthy leader who could finally stamp out corruption and poverty.

But, while the country continues to reel under these evils, the President has suddenly been blessed with victors, all three of them, who could more or less personify triumph over hunger and want.

To celebrate, boxing expert Hermie Rivera bared Malacañang has set a grand reception for the triumphant trio of Pacquiao, Brian Viloria and Rey Bautista on Tuesday.

* * *

So what will the President offer in thanksgiving?

More cash rewards, maybe.

But what about those who have sacrificed to support and guide the trio of Pacquiao, Viloria and Bautista to triumph?

Has Malacañang, for example, heard of Polding Corea, the discoverer of Pacquiao who had selflessly parented and funded the scrappy southpaw from GenSan in the early years?

Will Cebu sportsman Tony Aldeguer finally get formal Palace recognition after all his noble efforts at discovering and raising winners in his well-equipped private gym?

The man does not need the recognition, but has Malacañang heard of the quiet, almost secret efforts of sportsman Rudy Salud, who had spent millions in sending professional Filipino boxers, like Gerry Peñalosa and Z Gorres to name only two, to train and fight abroad?

Oh, there are a lot more people to be thanked for the towering feeling being enjoyed by the top residents of Malacañang.

* * *

For one, shouldn't trainer Freddie Roach be given a special place during the thanksgiving rites on Tuesday?

It may have been overlooked, but Roach was the sole main man in the corner of the three triumphant RP pugs in LA last Sunday.

There's no doubt Roach had carved out Pacquiao from a raw stone into a shining jewel.

But the famous American trainer has also been handling Viloria for nearly two years before the peppery Ilocano finally got a crack at the world crown.

Bautista, for one, had been slapping his punches like a carpenter driving a nail with a rusty hammer. The flaw could not be corrected despite the frantic efforts of Rivera and an old, straying columnist.

If Bautista finally boxed magnificently to a third round victory, if he ever loomed like a sweet dream, it was all due to the tireless guidance of Roach.

Anyway, here's what we want to make clear: Malacañang has suddenly loomed like a world boxing power, although it has no decent national boxing program in place.

The President continues to get a free ride, with no sign whatsoever of correcting the faulty set-up.

In fact, Boom Boom Bautista had nobody from the government, say the sleepy Games and Amusements Board, to welcome or assist him when he returned from LA on Wednesday morning.

Sorry, but if GMA ever calls in these worthy men we had mentioned for a bit of recognition, that would be equal to celebrating her faults.

# Busy prov'l sked, 3 foreign stints for PBA

SEEKING A WIDER AUDIENCE, THE Philippine Basketball Association will go to 16 provincial and three international destinations in the 2005-2006 season.

In the first conference starting Oct. 2, the pro league has scheduled eight out-of-town games, seven of them in the Visayas and Mindanao where crowd response is warm and strong.

Cagayan de Oro, Tacloban, Iloilo, Lanao del Norte, Capiz, Zamboanga, General Santos and Urdaneta are the provincial hosts of the first conference.

The pro league will also play in Taipei on Dec. 14 for the second official overseas game of the PBA since Talk 'N Text and Shell collided before a sellout crowd in Jakarta last season.

"The PBA has always looked forward to bringing the league closer to the fans and that's why we're holding more out-of-town games," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala.

"We'll also be playing in Taipei to entertain our countrymen there."

Defending Fiesta Cup champion San Miguel Beer and Red Bull will bring their act to Taipei in the first of three overseas games the PBA plans to hold.

Jakarta will again host a game in the all-Filipino second conference along with Guam. These overseas stints are to be calendared along with eight provincial games in the season-ending conference.

Eala also revealed that the PBA is working out a deal to play at the Staples Center, home of the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA.

Sta. Lucia Realty and Coca-Cola will touch off the PBA's series of out-of-town sorties on Oct. 15 with Tubod, Lanao del Norte, hosting the league for the first time.

Cagayan de Oro takes its turn when Purefoods clashes with Barangay Ginebra on Oct. 22, before Capiz features SMB Beer and Air21 a week later.

*June Navarro*

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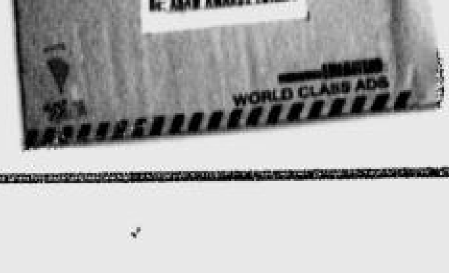

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# Archers untouchable still for Black, Eagles

ATENEO'S LA Tenorio slips past La Salle's Jose Aquino and JV Casio in their UAAP game yesterday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

## Big La Salle start stuns Ateneo

By Jasmine W. Payo

**DESPITE A ROCKY AND CONTROVERSIAL campaign, the La Salle Archers could easily flip a winning switch against the Ateneo Eagles.**

With guard Ryan Araña sparking a big start, the Archers completed an elimination-round sweep over the Eagles, 72-55, yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

The defending champions, who were denied two game protests this season, shored up their bid for the remaining twice-to-beat semifinal incentive by improving to 9-4.

"It's a hangover of the board's decision (to nullify the Archers' win over the University of the East Warriors)," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. "We're still putting a strong statement that you win inside the court, not in the boardroom.

"It was also important for us to have a quick start."

The Archers, however, must win in their replay game against the Warriors on Sunday to forge a three-way tie at 10-4 with Ateneo and UE.

In this scenario, the team with the highest quotient automatically earns the second spot, which comes with the twice-to-beat bonus. The two squads with the lower quotients will dispute the third slot.

Currently, La Salle holds the highest quotient over Ateneo and UE.

The Far Eastern U Tamaraws earlier claimed the first semifinal bonus after drubbing the National U Bulldogs, 76-43, with Arwind Santos posting 16 points, 10 boards and three blocks in 17 minutes of play.

The Tamaraws, who finished with a league-leading 12-2 record, will battle the fourth-seed team in the Final Four.

Araña fired 16 of his 18 points in the first half, while playmaker TY Tang also finished with 18 markers.

The Archers, who last completed an elimination sweep over the Eagles in 2001, jumped to a 7-0 start before the Eagles recovered to tighten the contest at 14-13.

Ateneo's Magnum Membrere opened the second period with a three-pointer to put coach Norman Black's charges on even terms with the Archers for the first time at 25.

But Araña took over, scoring eight of the Archers' next 11 points to give La Salle a 36-29 edge.

JV Casio orchestrated the Archers' offense early in the third quarter and a Tang triple ballooned the Archers lead to 51-40.

As the Archers' widened the gap 60-43, the Eagles compounded their woes by nailing only three of their eight free throws.

**The scores:**

**First Game (Srs)**

**FEU 76**—Santos 16, Isip 11, Fernandez 8, Chan 8, Saldua 6, Adolfo 6, Dela Cruz 4, Barcellano 4, Jo. Villanueva 3, Nietes 3, Je. Villanueva 2, Rizada 2, Flores 2, Mangahas 1.

**NU 43**—Fernandez 10, D. Catmora 8, Flor 6, Malcontento 5, C. Catamora 5, Asoro 4, Salvado 2, Jahnke 2, Dela Cruz 1, Tungcul 0.

**Quarters:** 23-6, 48-14, 62-23, 76-43

**Second Game (Srs)**

**LA SALLE 72**—Tang 18, Araña 18, Casio 13, Cabatu 9, Yeo 4, Maierhofer 4, Benitez 4, Aquino 2, Villanueva 0, Barua 0.

**ATENEO 55**—Intal 15, Tenorio 10, Escalona 7, Kramer 6, Barracoso 5, Aguilar 5, Reyes 3, Laterre 1, Quimson 0, Nazareno 0.

**Quarters:** 25-22, 41-36, 60-46, 72-55

## Manila readies big Pacquiao welcome

BARRING INCLEMENT WEATHER, the "champion's motorcade" that Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and other city officials have prepared for Manny Pacquiao will go on as planned.

Pacquiao—who stopped Mexican Hector Velazquez in the sixth round last Sunday in Los Angeles to set himself up for a grudge rematch with Erik Morales early next year—is scheduled to arrive at about 5 a.m. today via Philippine Airlines flight PR 103 from Los Angeles, California.

Organizers of the Manila event, led by Manila Sports Council chair Arnold "Ali" Atienza, said the motorcade will start from city hall at 9:30 a.m. after a brief ceremony.

Residents are expected to shower Pacquiao, an adopted son of Manila, with confetti during the motorcade which carries the theme "Kampeon ng Maynila, Kampeon ng Bansa."

Atienza also paid tribute to Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista and Brian Viloria who also won their fights by knockouts in the Pacquiao undercard.

Atienza added that the victory of the three Filipino boxers should serve as "a signal to each of us to unite and work together so that the real capabilities and potentials of our people would be realized." *With a report from Nikko Dizon*

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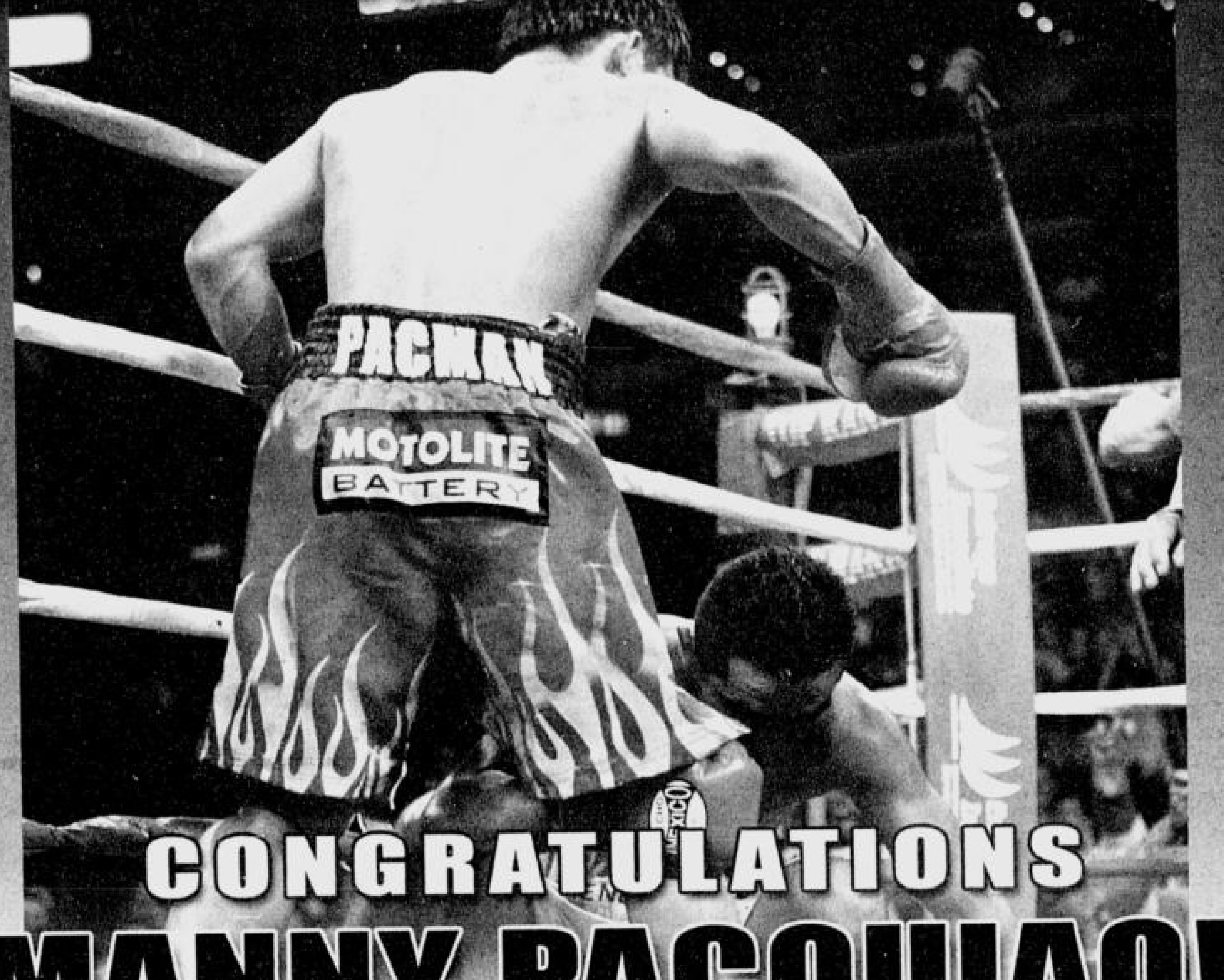

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11:45FS/12:15MF/03:10/06:05
08:30LFS/09:00LFS/11:35END

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1 **THE CAVE**
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38
09:18FS/09:30LMF/11:10END

2 **BROTHERS GRIMM**
11:55FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:30END

3 **SOUND OF THUNDER**
11:30FS/11:40MF/01:38/03:36/05:34/07:32
09:17LFS/09:30LFS/11:15END

### METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1. SOUND OF THUNDER
2. CINDERELLA MAN
3. RED EYE
4. THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
5. THE CAVE
6. BROTHER GRIMM
7. ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
8. LONG WEEEKEND
9. LOVESTRUCK
10. LITTLE MERMAID
11. LISENSYADONG KAMAO
12. SKY HIGH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1. LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2. LONG WEEKEND
3. D' ANOTHERS
4. THE CAVE
5. CINDERELLA MAN
6. SOUND OF THUNDER
7. BROTHERS GRIMM
8. SKY HIGH
9. LOVESTRUCK
10. LONGEST YARD
11. RED EYE
12. DUKES OF HAZZARD

SM NORTH EDSA
1. THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
2. BROTHERS GRIMM
3. LOVESTRUCK
4. THE CAVE
5. LONG WEEKEND
6. RED EYE
7. CINDERELLA MAN
8. SOUND OF THUNDER

SM CITY MANILA
1. THE CAVE
2. SOUND OF THUNDER
3. ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
4. BROTHER GRIMM
5. SKY HIGH
6. CINDERELLA MAN
7. RED EYE
8. LONG WEEKEND
9. LOVESTRUCK
10. LISENSYADONG KAMAO
11. EVIL EYES
12. THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY STA MESA
1. SOUND OF THUNDER
2. CINDERELLA MAN
3. BROTHERS GRIMM
4. THE CAVE
5. LOVESTRUCK
6. RED EYE
7. LONG WEEKEND
8. SKY HIGH
9. LAZARUS CHILD
10. LONGEST YARD

SM movietime

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1. SOUND OF THUNDER
2. LOVESTRUCK
3. BROTHERS GRIMM
4. CINDERELLA MAN
5. LONG WEEKEND
6. SKY HIGH
7. THE CAVE
8. RED EYE
9. LONGEST YARD
10. LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM SAN LAZARO
1. SOUND THUNDER
2. BROTHERS GRIMM
3. RED EYE
4. CINDERELLA MAN
5. THE CAVE
6. LOVESTRUCK

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1. BROTHERS GRIMM
2. SOUND OF THUNDER
3. LOVESTRUCK
4. CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY BICUTAN
1. RED EYE
2. LOVESTRUCK
3. SOUND OF THUNDER
4. BROTHERS GRIMM

### LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1. CINDERELLA MAN
2. TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3. LONGEST YARD
4. RED EYE
5. LOVESTRUCK
6. LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BAGUIO
1. RED EYE
2. SKY HIGH
3. MUST LOVE DOGS
4. LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BACOOR
1. SKY HIGH
2. LOVESTRUCK
3. SOUND OF THUNDER
4. THE CAVE
5. BROTHERS GRIMM
6. LOVESTRUCK
7. RED EYE
8. CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY MARILAO
1. LONGEST YARD
2. LOVESTRUCK
3. LOVESTRUCK
4. THE CAVE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1. RED EYE
2. LONGEST YARD
3. LOVESTRUCK
4. THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY LUCENA
1. THE GREAT RAID
2. LOVESTRUCK
3. SKELETON KEY
4. SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS

SM CITY BATANGAS
1. SKELETON KEY
2. LOVE STRUCK
3. SKY HIGH
4. DUKES OF HAZZARD

### VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1. THE CAVE
2. BROTHERS GRIMM
3. SOUND OF THUNDER
4. SKY HIGH
5. SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
6. RED EYE
7. LOVESTRUCK
8. LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
1. LONGEST YARD
2. RESERVED
3. SKELETON KEY
4. LOVESTRUCK
5. TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
6. DUKES OF HAZZARD
7. RESERVED
8. EVIL EYES

SM CITY DAVAO
1. THE CAVE
2. MAN OF THE HOUSE
3. LOVESTRUCK
4. DUKES OF HAZZARD
5. LONGEST YARD
6. SKY HIGH

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1. LONGEST YARD
2. LOVESTRUCK
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4. TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

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| 2 | CINDERELLA MAN | 11:20, 2:20, 5:20<br>8:20, 11:10 | PG-13 |
| 3 | THE BROTHERS GRIMM | 12:10, 2:55, 5:40<br>8:25, 11:00 | PG-13 |
| 4 | SOUND OF THUNDER | 1:05, 3:35, 6:05<br>8:35, 11:00 | PG-13 |

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| RED EYE<br>PG13<br>12:00,2:00,4:00,<br>6:00,8:00,10:00 | ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING<br>1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00 | CINDERELLA MAN<br>PG13<br>1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10 |

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CINEMA 5 CINDERELLA MAN - PG13 10:35, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

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② A SOUND OF THUNDER
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

③ RED EYE
MTRCB PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

④ THE BROTHERS GRIMM
MTRCB PG-13
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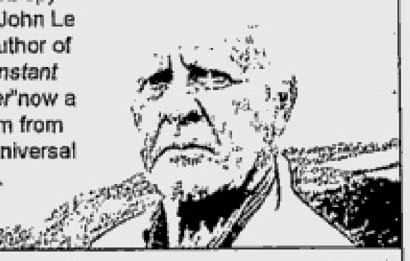
24/7 UP EURO

# John Le Carre may pen new James Bond novel!



Acclaimed spy novelist John Le Carre, author of *"The Constant Gardener"* now a major film from Focus/Universal Pictures.

Plans for a new James Bond novel are being finalized by the estate of Ian Fleming. The favorite to be approached is acclaimed British spy novelist **John Le Carre** whose novel "*The Constant Gardener*" has been adapted into film starring **Ralph Fiennes** ( "*Maid in Manhattan*" ) and **Rachel Weisz** ( "*Constantine*" ).

John le Carre once described Ian Fleming's Bond novels as "*cultural pornography*" and what he disliked most was "*the Superman figure who is 'ennobled' by some sort of misty, patriotic ideas and who can commit any crime and break any law in the name of his own society". He's a sort of licensed criminal who, in the name of false patriotism, approves of nasty crimes.*"

In a letter dated 9 June 1981 to his poet friend Philip Larkin, Kingsley Amis, Le Carre writes: "*The really interesting thing [phrase that shows a lie is coming up] about Bond is that he would be what I would call the ideal defector. Because if the money was better, the booze freer and women easier over there in Moscow, he'd be off like a shot. Bond, you see is the ultimate prostitute.*"

It's an irony that the estate of Ian Fleming is picking Le Carre as the next James Bond writer.

Le Carre's words on Bond also displayed a certain amount of ingratitude for Ian Fleming. For the record, Ian Fleming once called John Le Carre's first spy novel "The Spy Who Came in From the Cold" as "*A very, very fine spy story*" which, in return, Le Carre calls Fleming's novels as "*cultural pornography*".

In retrospect, Bond is the opposite of the things Le Carre believes in; to Le Carre, Bond is a self-centered hedonist who does what his government commands because he's rewarded with material pleasures. He believes that Bond's materialism makes him a security risk, a person who would eventually sell himself out to the highest bidder because, after all, patriotism is just a hollow concept. Le Carre also considers his novels to be far more realistic than Fleming's, and they probably are. Certainly his characters tend to live mundane and ordinary lives that we can all identify with.

Rachel Weisz and Ralph Fiennes star in "The Constant Gardener"

Born in Poole, Dorset and educated at Sherborne School, the University of Berne and at Lincoln College, Oxford. John Le Carre entered the British Foreign Service in 1959, where he worked first as Second Secretary in the British Embassy and then as Political Consul in Hamburg.

Le Carre's first novels "*Call for the Dead*" and "*A Murder of Quality*" were written while he was still employed by the Foreign Service. After the overwhelming success of "*The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*", Le Carre was able to devote himself to writing full-time. Widely admired, the novel described the world of espionage as a far darker and dirtier place than that of Ian Fleming's glamorous James Bond.

After denying for many years that he was involved in espionage during his career with the Foreign Service, he later admitted that he himself worked for both MI5 and MI6.

ADVT.

## NBC QUARTERFINALS

# Parañaque downs Harbour five

THE PARAÑAQUE JETS STEADIED IN THE clutches to beat Bacchus/Harbour Centre, 87-76, Wednesday at the start of their best-of-three quarterfinal series in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the San Dionisio gym in Parañaque.

Slam-dunking forward Alex Bognot and slotman Larry Rodriguez combined for 10 points in the Jets' 13-6 run in the fourth quarter that enabled them to pull away from a 63-62 count.

"It's important to win game one of a short series like," said Jets coach Efren "Yong" Garcia.

Parañaque and Harbour/Bacchus play game two today in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Veteran Rolly Basilides dished out another fine performance for the Boy Bawang-backed Jets, scoring 18 points on top of six rebounds, five assists and three steals.

Niño Marquez and Bognot supported Basilides with 16 and 14 markers, respectively.

Nani Epondulan led Bacchus/Harbour with 17 points while Francis Raushmayer had 15 points and nine boards.

**The scores:**

**PARAÑAQUE 87**—Basilides 18, Marquez 16, Bognot 14, Lopez 8, Rodriguez 8, Tolentino 5, Guiyab 2, Balingit 2, Ruiz 2.

**BACCHUS/HARBOUR 76**—Epondulan 17, Raushmayer 15, Enrile 11, Sta. Cruz 10, Cordero 9, Hardin 6, Reroma 5, Coyukang 3, Chua 3.

**Quarters:** 22-15, 48-41, 63-59, 87-76

## Pasay 4-stag derby kicks off today

BIGTIME cockfighting shifts to the Pasay City Cockpit today with the staging of another 4-stag derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and featuring more than 60 fights. Veteran cocker Ramon Mancenares has invited members of National Cockers Association (NCA), the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) and the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) to the derby. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750. Up next at the same venue is the second PCCA 4-Stag Derby on Sept. 23. Two entries—BL Gemini of B. Layag and JNL Farms of Jack Chung—topped the first PCCA stagfest last week. Slated on Sept. 30 is the Labanan Sa Pasay 5-Stag Derby with PCC pit manager Eric dela Rosa as host. Entry fee is P22,000.

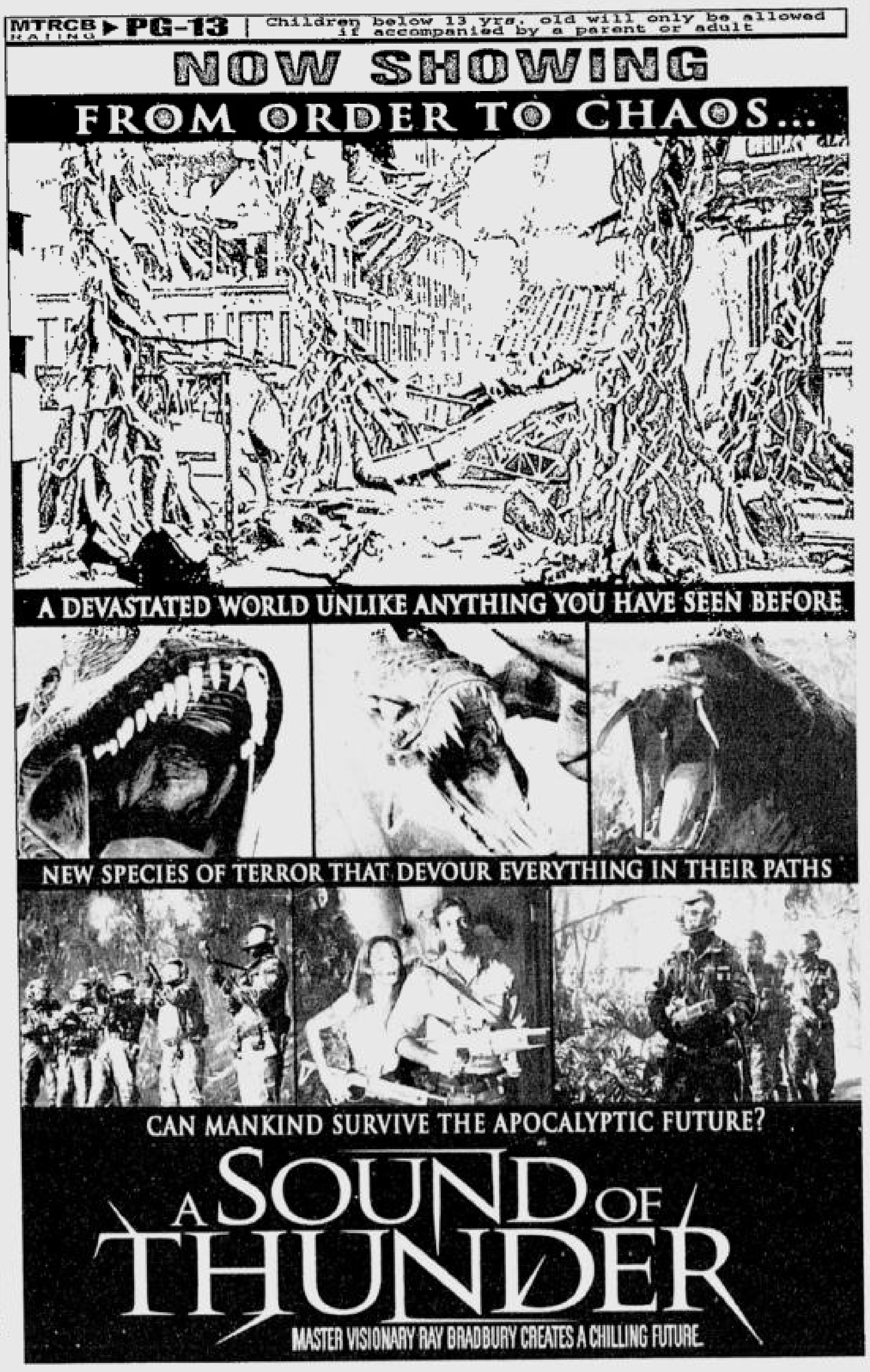
## RACING TIPS

### AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Irish Step 2. Heart of My Soul 3. Brown Carpet/Hang Together 4. Raging Tsunami
Race 2—1. Habagat 2. Samahan 3. Sparkling Cool 4. Gentleman's Lady
Race 3—1. American Woman 2. Maria Makiling 3. Windlass
Race 4—1. Solid North 2. Valiente 3. Gelay's Charm 4. Boms Boms
Race 5—1. Reign of Fire 2. Can and Will 3. Dalidali
Race 6—1. Presidentiable 2. Red Storm 3. Jay Nicole 4. Magic Dancer
Race 7—1. Valiant Queen 2. Accomplice 3. Sense of Justice 4. Like Kevin
Race 8—1. Gold Is Gold 2. Ilocos Pride 3. Farragut's Order 4. Casanova
Race 9—1. Ghurka 2. Nothing to Declare 3. Western Legend 4. Cara Dura 4. Cat's Jewel 6. Queen Banana

# Cebu Poker King Challenge slated

THE FOURTH leg of the Poker King Challenge, a series of non-wager poker tournaments, is set Sept. 24 and 25 at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City. Poker Club of the Philippines (PCP) president Ray "Butch" Gamboa said trophies and prize certificates with a total value of over P100,000 from sponsors PCP, Pagcor, Jack Daniels, Bicycle Playing Cards/Star Paper, Hyatt Hotel and Casino, Ralph's Wine, and MyReviewerOnline, the Internet knowledge-builder, are at stake. The top Cebu finishers qualify to the Poker King Grand Finals slated late this year. For inquiries, call 817-9092 or visit www.PokerClubofthePhilippines.com.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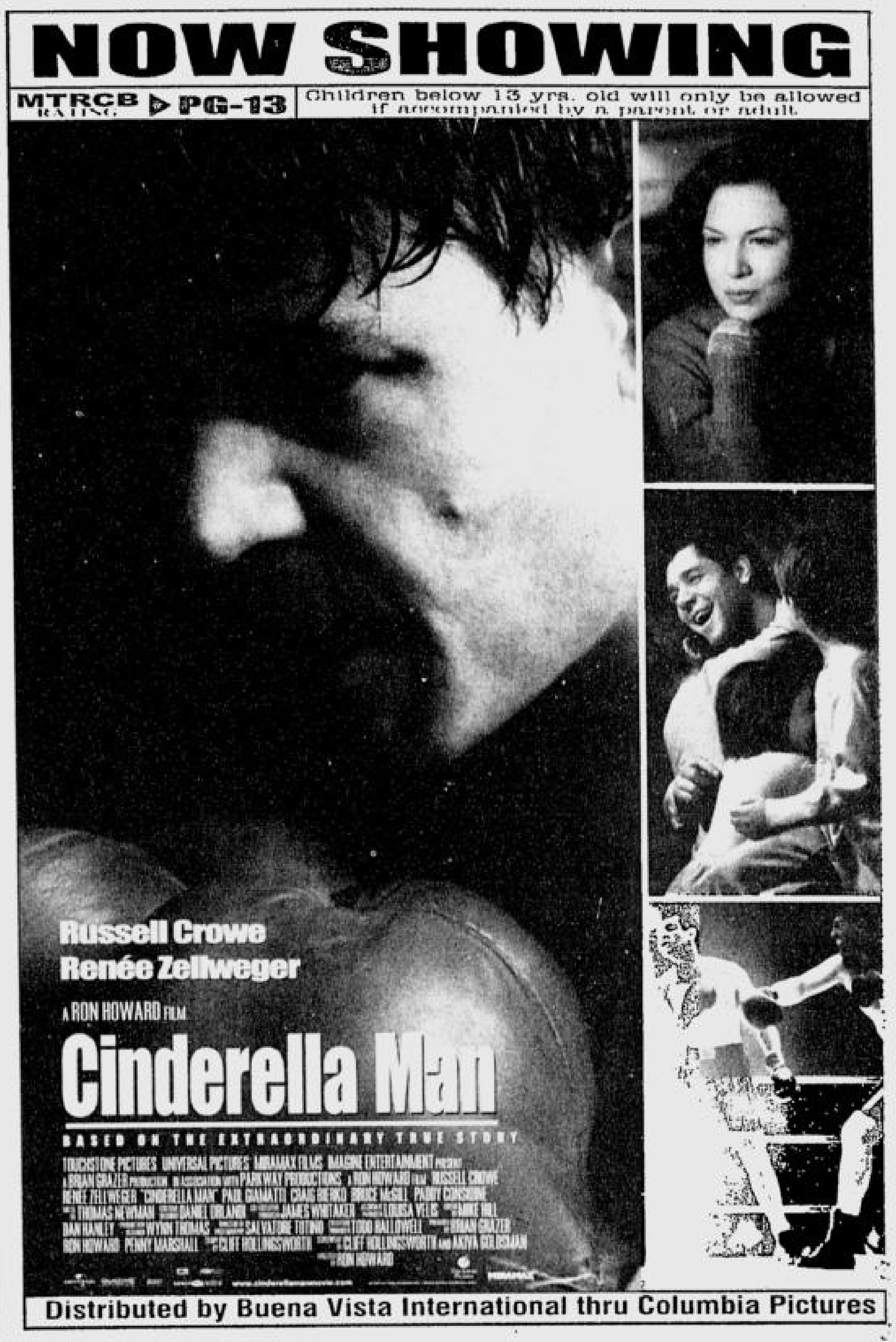
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NO DEMON WE CAN'T EXTERMINATE
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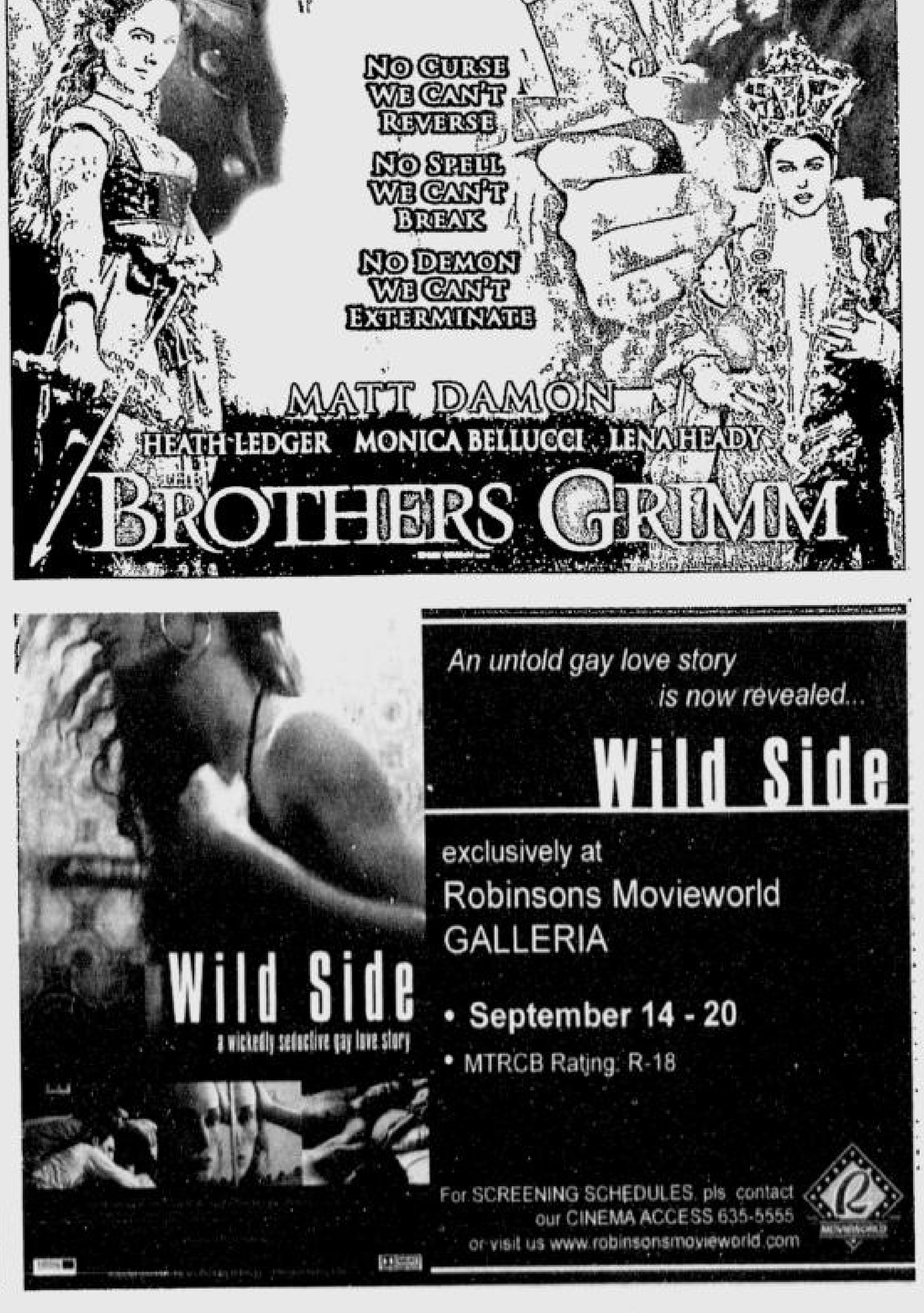
RALPH FIENNES
RACHEL WEISZ
THE CONSTANT GARDENER
BASED ON THE STORY BY ACCLAIMED BRITISH SPY NOVELIST JOHN LE CARRÉ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## GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM • THX
2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

2 CINDERELLA MAN
1:20 4:20 7:00 9:50

3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 THE CROW 4
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 LOVESTRUCK
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE CAVE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 RED EYE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 THE LONG WEEKEND
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

9 MUST LOVE DOGS

10 WILD SIDE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

## ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 LOVESTRUCK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 RED EYE

3 CINDERELLA MAN
12:00 2:50 5:00 7:30 9:50

4 THE CROW 4
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 THE CAVE

6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

## METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE LONG WEEKEND
1:40 3:30 5:20 7:10 9:00

2 THE CAVE
1:35 4:00 6:25 8:50

3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 CINDERELLA MAN
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

5 SKY HIGH
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 RED EYE
12:40 2:20 4:00 5:40 7:20 9:00

7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

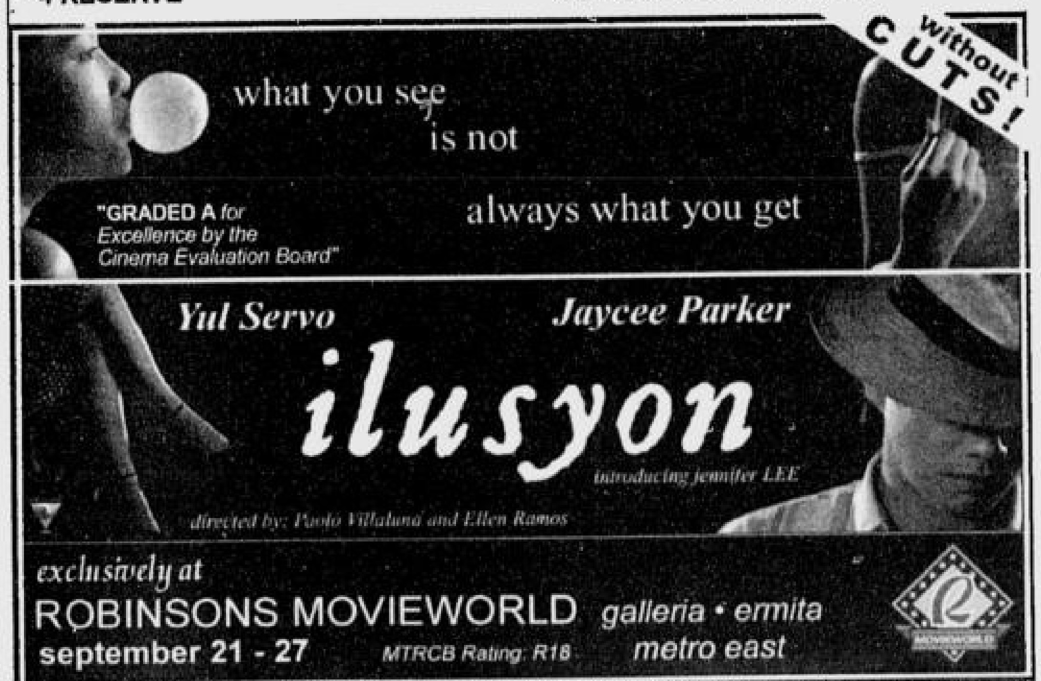
8 LOVESTRUCK
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

## CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 RESERVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKY HIGH
4 RESERVE

## PIONEER 687-5378

1 CINDERELLA MAN
2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER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september 21 - 27
MTRCB Rating: R18

## STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 SKELETON KEY
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

## LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 SKELETON KEY

## DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 EVIL EYES
4 THE LONGEST YARD

## ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
4 CINDERELLA MAN

## IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 RED EYE
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 THE CAVE
4 LOVESTRUCK

## STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 EVIL EYES
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 RED EYE

## BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

1 SKY HIGH
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 VALIANT
4 SKELETON KEY
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

## ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

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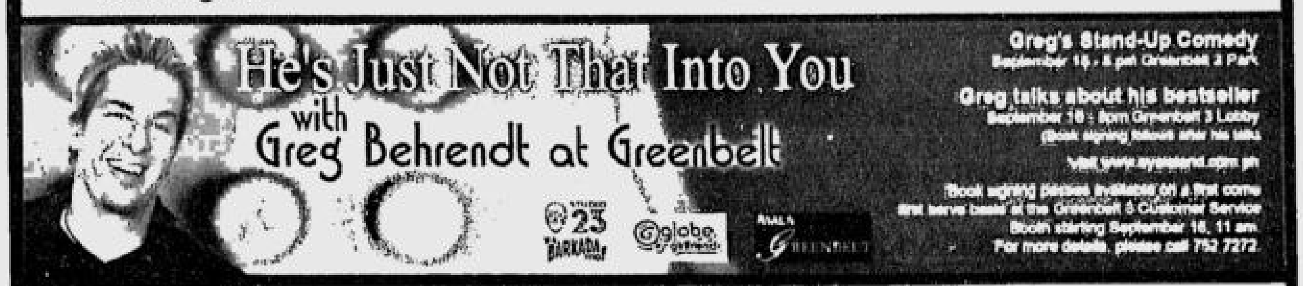
He's Just Not That Into You with Greg Behrendt at Greenbelt

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September 15 • 8 pm Greenbelt 3 Park

Greg talks about his bestseller
September 16 : 8pm Greenbelt 3 Lobby
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|---|---|---|
| BPI's Real 0% Christmas Wishlist Installment Madness<br>September 7 to 25, 2005 | Felta Multimedia<br>September 15, 2005 | World Alzheimer's Day Celebration<br>September 18, 2005 |

AYALA GREENBELT

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Sex And The City consultant
and author of the #1 best seller He's Just Not That Into You
September 15 & 16

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**Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 | GLORIETTA 1 | 1 THE CROW: WICKED PRAYER | 2 A SOUND OF THUNDER | 3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM | 4 LOVESTRUCK | | |
| G4 | GLORIETTA 4 | 1 A SOUND OF THUNDER | 2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM | 3 THX CINDERELLA MAN<br>11.50, 2.30, 5 10, 7 50, 10 30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | | | |
| | | 4 LORDS OF DOGTOWN | 5 SKY HIGH | 6 LOVESTRUCK | 7 RED EYE | | |
| GB1 | GREENBELT 1 | 1 CINDERELLA MAN<br>12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20 | 2 LOVESTRUCK<br>11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 | | | | |
| GB3 | GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX THE BROTHERS GRIMM<br>1 20, 3 50, 6 20, 8 50, 11 20<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX CINDERELLA MAN<br>12 50, 3 30, 6 10, 8 50, 11 30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | | | | |
| | | 3 LONG WEEKEND<br>2 30, 4 30, 6 30, 8 30, 10 30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 A SOUND OF THUNDER<br>2.20, 4 35, 6 50 9 05, 11 20<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 RED EYE<br>1 30, 3.30, 5.30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | | | |
| ATC | ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX CINDERELLA MAN | 2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM | | | | |
| | | 3 LOVESTRUCK | 4 A SOUND OF THUNDER | 5 RED EYE | | | |
| ACC | AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 THE LONGEST YARD | 2 SKY HIGH | 3 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS | 4 LOVESTRUCK | | |

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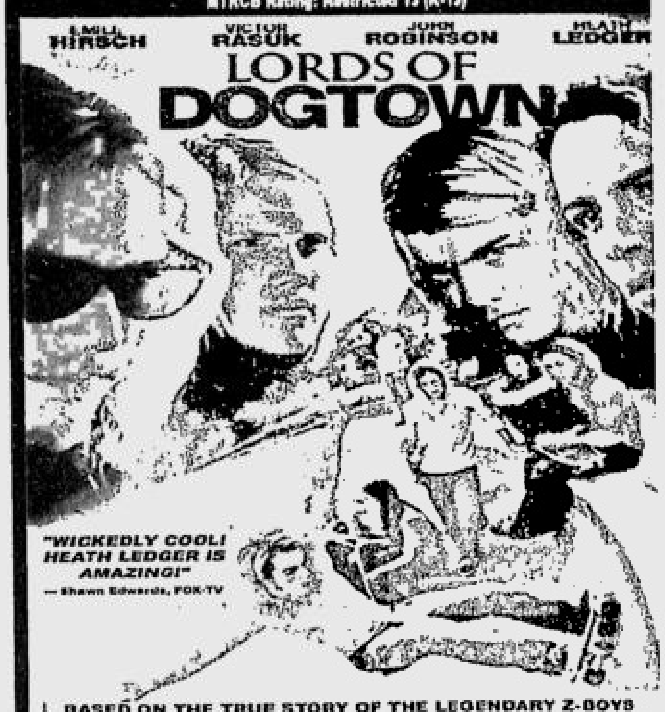
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- Marvel at the grand fireworks display after the show on Sept. 16, in front of the Playzone area!

# Santiago slugfest on today

TOUCH Mobile's Go for Gold goes to Santiago City, Isabela, today with 12 exciting bouts, including a slambang affair between the country's leading amateur boxers.

Hosted by Santiago City Mayor Amelita S. Navarro and lawyer Gigi Aggabao, Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines Region II head, the event will feature the much-awaited clash between rivals Philippine Navy and Philippine Air Force.

The RP Ginebra Boxing team is also seeing action in the event.

Touch Mobile's Go for Gold is telecast every Sunday on NBN 4, 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. "Abap would like to thank Touch Mobile for its solid support of the Go For Gold program," said Abap president Manny Lopez. "Go for Gold as always is geared toward bringing and finding talents in the countryside."

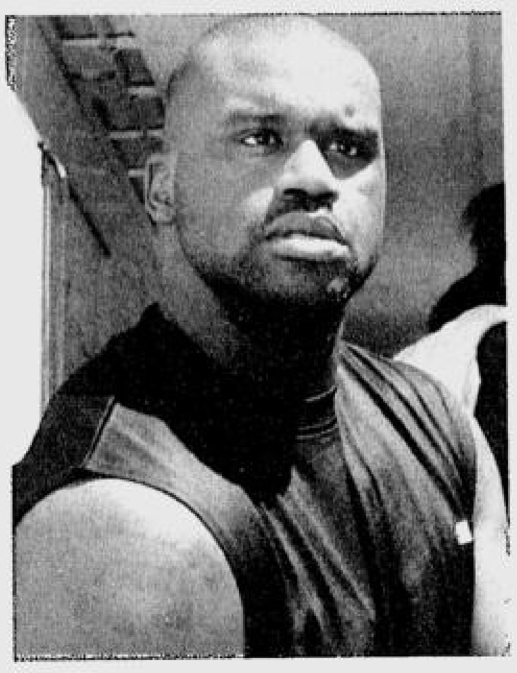
The lone women bout pits pinweights Gretchen Abaniel and Alice Kate Aparri.

# Grieving Clemens lifts Astros

NEW YORK—A GRIEVING Roger Clemens turned in a gritty performance Wednesday in leading the Houston Astros to a clutch 10-2 victory over the Florida Marlins at Minute Maid Park, just hours after his mother had passed away.

Earlier in the day Clemens had learned that his 75-year-old mother Bess had died of complications from emphysema but the seven-time Cy Young award winner insisted on pitching as a tribute.

Clemens provided Houston with a badly needed lift, tossing 6 1/3 strong innings to help the Astros pull out of a three-game losing streak and move to within a half-game of the front-running Philadelphia Phillies and the Marlins in the National League wild card race. *Reuters*



**GOOD SAMARITAN:** Miami Heat's Shaquille O'Neal lends a hand to victims of Hurricane Katrina. O'Neal is in the process of becoming a Miami Beach reserve officer. AP

# Sacramento takes title series opener

UNCASVILLE, CONNECTICUT—YOLANDA Griffith made the most of her first appearance in the WNBA Finals, scoring 25 points as the Sacramento Monarchs beat the Connecticut Sun, 69-65, to take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five series on Wednesday.

The Monarchs lost both regular-season meetings but used a strong inside game, anchored by Griffith, to hand Connecticut a rare home loss. The Sun, making their second straight appearance in the finals, had lost only three games all year at the Mohegan Sun arena coming in. Game 2 is on Thursday in Connecticut.

The home crowd got into it early when Lindsay Whalen was announced for the starting lineup for Connecticut. The star point guard suffered a broken bone in her left knee during the Eastern Conference finals on Saturday and was questionable for this series. The 8,200 fans erupted when Whalen ran onto the floor through bright orange jets of fire.

However, Griffith had the strong shooting touch in the end. The league's leading offensive rebounder, Griffith was 11-of-17, mostly on inside and second-chance buckets, and finished with a team-high nine boards.

"This is my first time in the finals and it might not happen next year so I've got to give it all I got," Griffith said.

Matched up most of the game against Connecticut's center Margo Dydek, Griffith time and again shot over Dydek's long reach or beat her on the baseline.

Nykesha Sales led the Sun with 23 points. Her 3-pointer with 1:26 left in the game pulled Connecticut to within three at 66-63. *AP*

# Woods, other top stars snub World Match Play

**WENTWORTH, ENGLAND—THE REFUSAL BY TIGER WOODS AND Phil Mickelson to compete in the multimillion dollar World Match Play championship has drawn an angry outburst from their fellow pros.**

Despite the World Match Play offering the biggest official prize in golf—one million pounds—only one of the world's Top 10 ranked players is in the field—Retief Goosen.

And for the first time since the World Match Play began in 1964 not a single American is in the field.

Woods, Mickelson, Jim Furyk and Chris DiMarco have all refused to make the flight across the Atlantic.

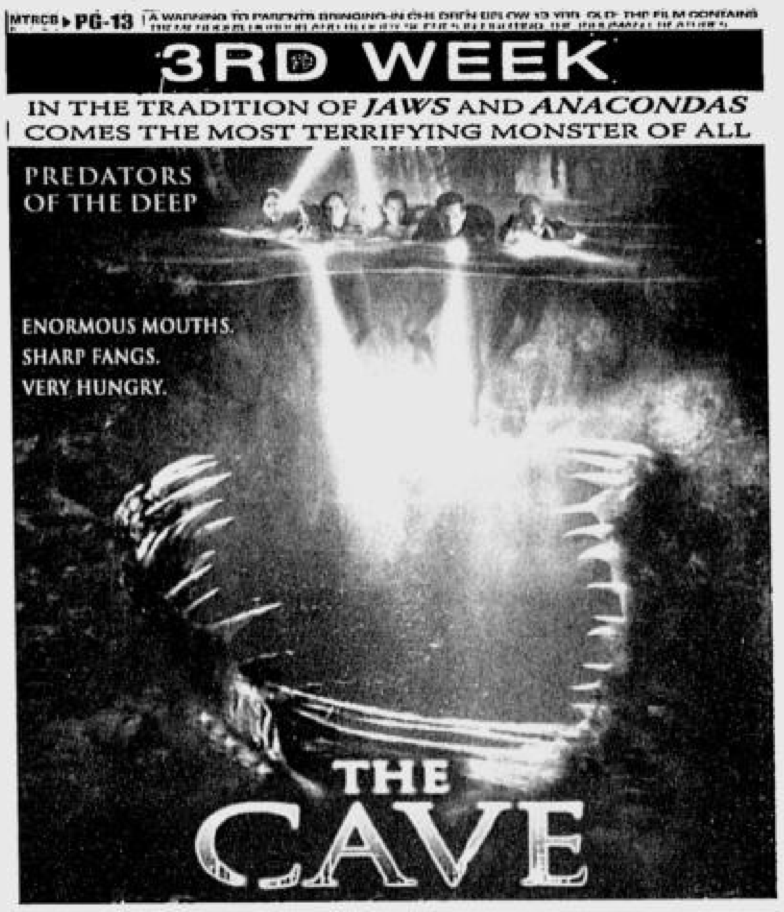
Defending champion Ernie Els, who has a house on the Wentworth course, has been forced to withdraw because of a knee injury in a sailing accident that brought his 2005 season to an early end.

Current US Open champion Michael Campbell has no doubts that the refusal by Woods, Mickelson and the other Americans to play this week is bad for golf.

"To the public eye it doesn't look good. It's a slap in the face to the sponsors.

"It leaves a very bad taste in your mouth, from the sponsor's point of view and the general public here," said the New Zealander.

Scotland's Colin Montgomerie claims the millions of dollars up for grabs on the US Tour is threatening the success of tournaments around the world. *AFP*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IN THE TRADITION OF JAWS AND ANACONDAS
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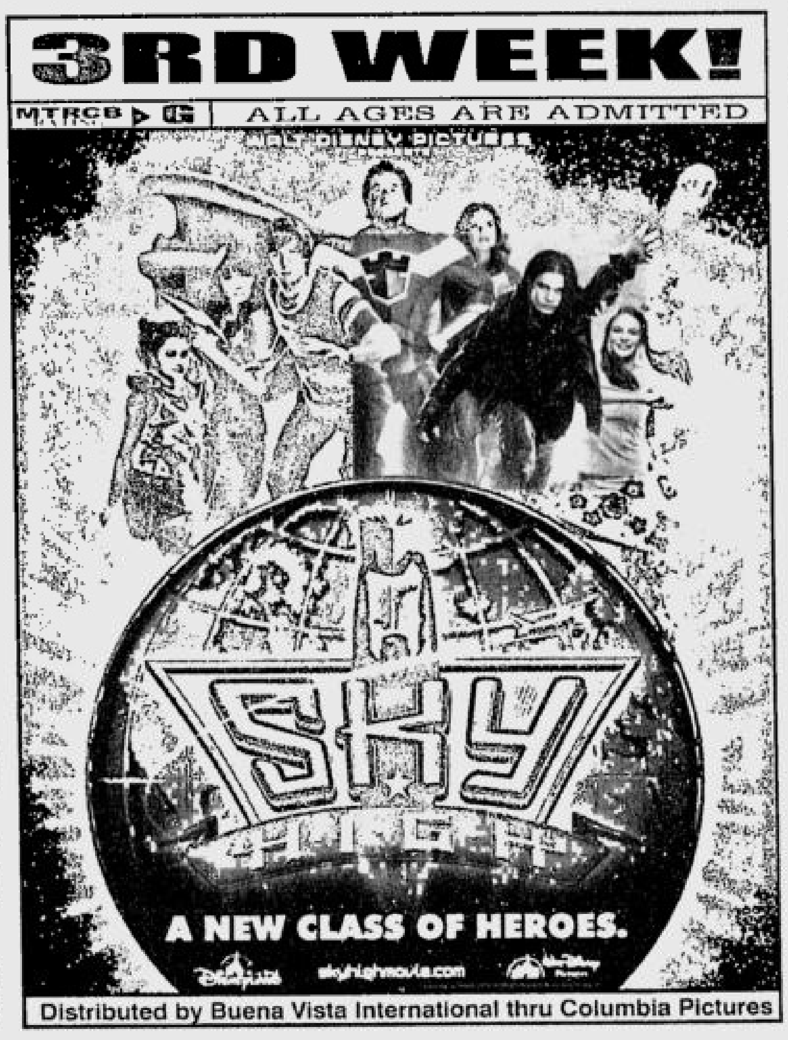
SHARP FANGS.
VERY HUNGRY.
THE CAVE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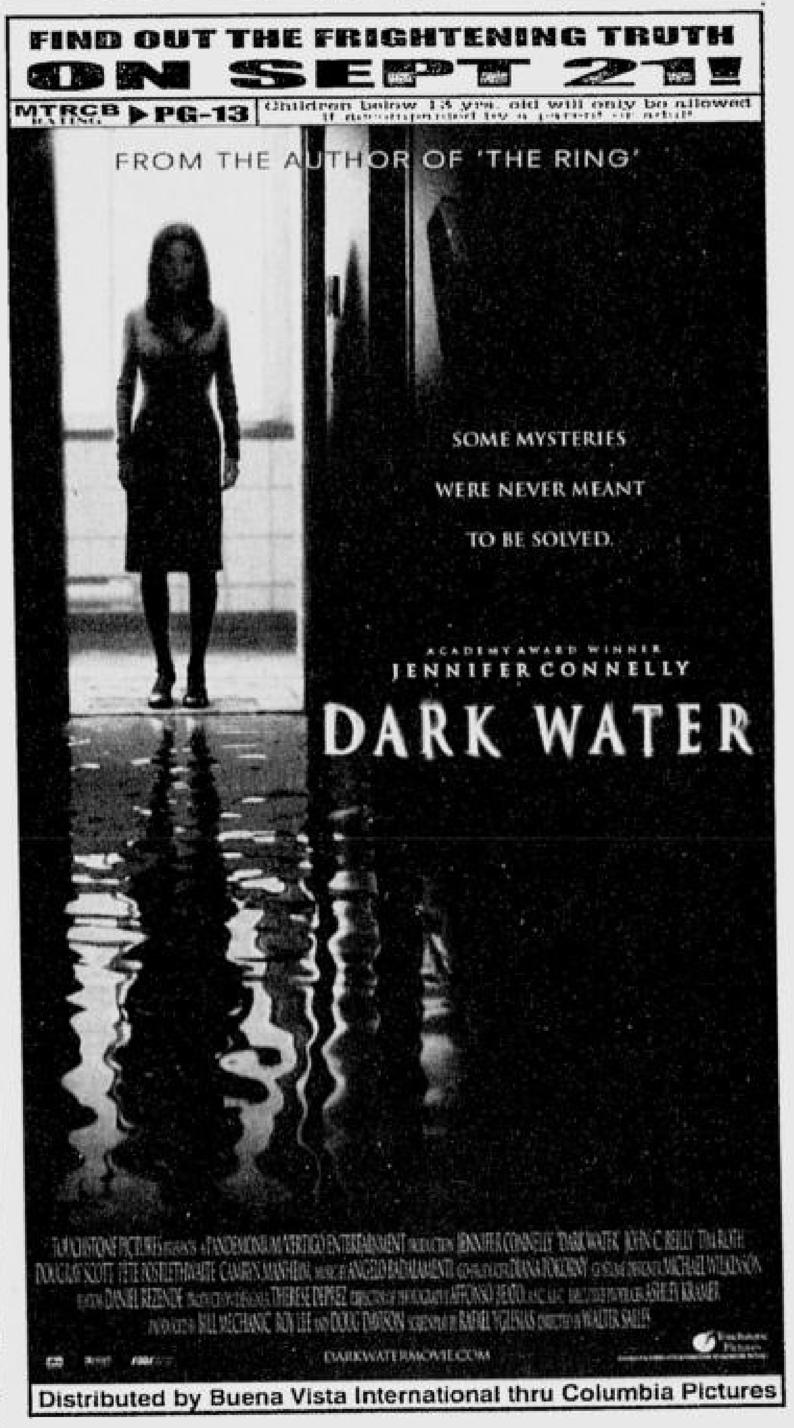
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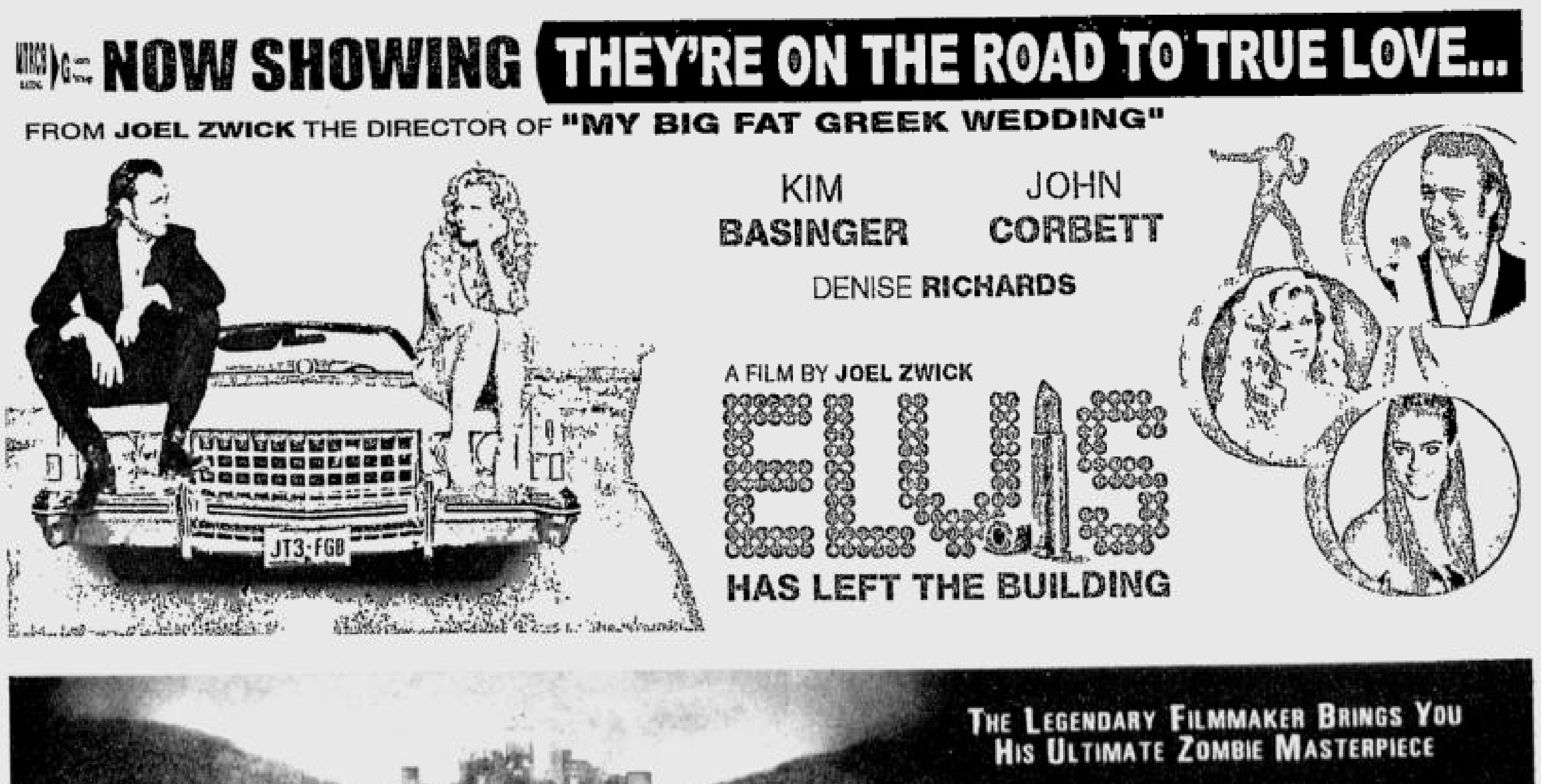
IS IMMORTAL.
THE CROW 4
WICKED PRAYER: BRING ME TO LIFE
NOW SHOWING
DIMENSION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Solar Entertainment Corporation

# Red Bull ready to rumble

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

BECAUSE THEY HAVE PREpared too long and trained too hard for this year's Philippine Basketball Association cage wars, Red Bull head coach Yeng Guiao said yesterday his Barakos should not be taken lightly this season.

Bristling with newfound bravado, the Barakos, sans import, showed enough improvement in beating sister teams Purefoods and Barangay Ginebra in recent tune-up games held in Pampanga and Tarlac, respectively.

"The team is ready," the 45-year-old Guiao said in an interview, adding that his players, including the recruits from the rookie draft last month, have been jelling well. "I'm not losing sleep these days. We're lucky in many ways."

But what pleased Guiao even more were the admirable attitude and total commitment of his Barakos and the all-out support of franchise owner George Chua and team manager Tony Chua.

Since joining the PBA in 2000, Red Bull officials have always taken steps to make the team come up with the highest level of performance not only to win games but also to earn the respect and appreciation of the public.

In the first round of the rookie draft last month, Guiao, picking No. 9 and last in the draft, selected 2003 NCAA Most Valuable Player Leo Najorda of San Sebastian, saying he was surprised that the 6-foot-4 southpaw was not selected much earlier by the other teams. Then in the next round, Guiao picked a pair of former Ateneo Eagles—6-foot-3 Larry Fonacier and 6-foot-5 Paolo Bugia—who were both teammates of now Red Bull marquee player Rico Villanueva in the Ateneo team that won the UAAP crown in 2002.

"Najorda, Fonacier and Bugia have blended well with the other members of their new team," said an elated Guiao. "Very rarely do you achieve chemistry and camaraderie in so short a time." He added these new players will supplement the nucleus of the team anchored on Villanueva, Junthy Valenzuela, Lordy Tugade, Cyrus Baguio and durable Nelson Asaytono.

Guiao, who won back-to-back PBA Commissioner's Cup championships in 2001 and 2002, picks star-studded Talk 'N Text, Alaska and San Miguel Beer as the teams most likely to give him the most trouble this year.

# RP ice skaters 2nd in ISI world meet

**ROXANNE Puno sparkles in the technical event.**

**A LEAN BUT MEAN PHILIPPINE TEAM LANDED second overall in the International Skating Institute world recreational team championships held in Los Angeles, California, recently.**

The young Filipinos' haul was eclipsed only by a big team that represented Pasadena, California, in the ice-skating competitions among 118 international teams.

Ana Gabrielle Trasporte led the Philippines' charge with seven gold medals, with Katrice Regina de los Reyes, Angelica Trasporte and Paulina Michelle Ong contributing five each, and Roxanne Dominique Puno and Roman Jay Capili accounting for four each.

Only 40 skaters or so represented the Philippines, compared to 100-plus delegations from various US teams.

Ana Gabrielle, who also won a bronze, topped the technical, artistic, footworks and solo compulsories in the Freestyle 7 category, the same bracket where Puno captured four golds and three silvers in the technical and footworks.

In all, De los Reyes won five golds, one silver and one bronze as she dominated the solo compulsories and footworks.

Capili won all four events he entered in the Freestyle 8 class, one more than the golden output of Dale Marcus Feliciano who nailed three gold medals and one bronze medal in the Freestyle 9 category.

In Freestyle 6, Francesca Dominique Recasata cornered three golds, three silvers and one bronze while Angelica Trasporte won five golds, one silver and one bronze, with victories in the technical, artistic, and footworks events in Freestyle 5.

Aside from five golds, Ong also won one silver and two bronze medals in the Freestyle 4 category.

# Fernando, M'temayor open Little Olympics

COMPETITIONS IN THE HIGH school and elementary levels in the 2005 Milo Little Olympics kicked off with much fanfare at the Marikina Sports Park recently with Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando leading the guests at its opening ceremonies.

Fernando was accompanied by Milo brand manager Michelle Calo and Charmaine Campagner, the business unit director of Publicis Manila in the 8 a.m. rites.

Philippine Sports Commissioner Leon Montemayor declared the Milo Little Olympics open following a colorful program involving performers from Marikina schools.

Trophies and cash prizes for the biggest delegations and loudest cheers were later handed out to the winning groups, spicing up the already busy festivities, according to CTW organizer Jovy Mamawal.

This year's Little Olympics offers close to P500,000 worth of educational assistance and sports equipment to the multi-sports competition's Most Outstanding Athletes and its top 10 schools.

# UM boosts stock with win

**By Marc Reyes**

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| UM | 15 | 1 |
| St. Clare | 12 | 3 |
| STI | 9 | 5 |
| Amacu | 8 | 7 |
| New Era | 8 | 7 |
| CEU | 5 | 10 |
| UMak | 4 | 10 |
| PLP | 3 | 12 |
| HAU | 1 | 11 |

RYAN REGALADO fired 34 points as University of Manila rolled to a 99-75 triumph over Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay yesterday in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the UM Gym.

The Hawks, whose win streak was pegged at 86 by St. Clare last week, improved their record to 15-1 even as the Eagles bowed out of the race with a 3-12 record.

UM, which will enjoy a twice-to-beat incentive in the finals, led all the way with Onofre Napiza backing up Regalado with 22 points.

In junior play, defending champion UM exacted some sort of revenge against St. Clare with a come-from-behind 81-79 win, while AMA Computer edged Better Children of St. Clare Montessori Center, 77-72.

# Manila leg of San Mig Enduro tomorrow

IT'S ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR THE ENDURO San Mig Light Adventures Series 2005 which kicks off its final leg tomorrow in the urban jungle of Metro Manila.

The Metro Manila leg, the last of three stages, is expected to be the year's biggest and grandest local adventure racing event with some 60-80 entries vying for top prizes.

With the stringent tasks awaiting participants, the organizers, led by race director Neyney Guevarra, have taken all measures to ensure the safety of the racers.

Guevarra said they have inspected the route and tried out the diverse tasks.

"Safety comes first," Guevarra said. "The safety of teams is guaranteed throughout the race since all security measures and precautions have been taken."

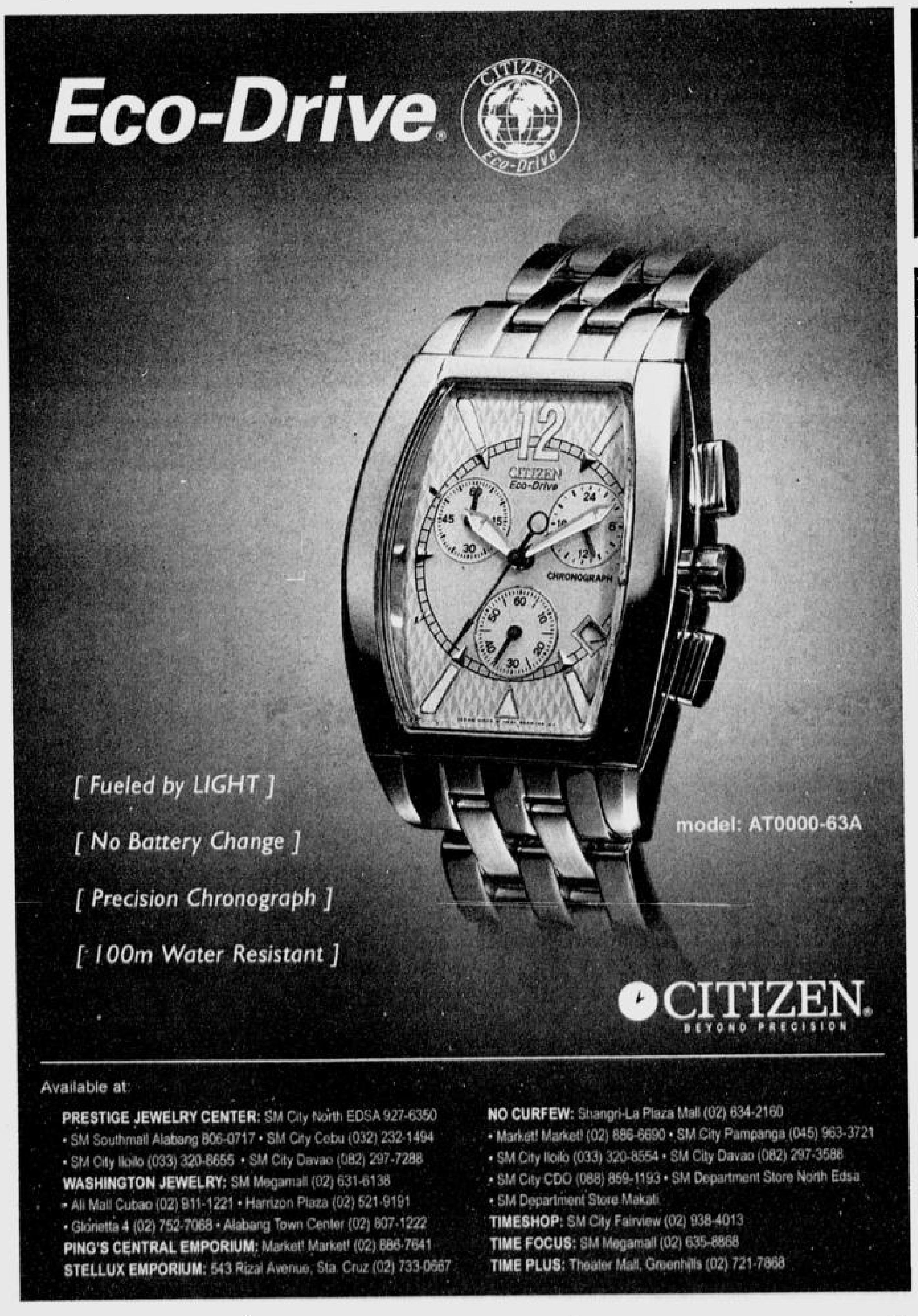
Aside from inspecting the race course, the organizers also provided briefing for the participants in the Elite category yesterday. Briefing will resume today for the Novice category racers at the Planet Infinity from 3 to 7 p.m.

The Manila leg, which promises to be more exciting than the first two stages held in Baguio and Cebu, is sponsored by San Mig Light.

Major backers are Bombproof Gear, Rudy Project, Casio, Planet Infinity, North Face, EZ Maps, Detour Bikeshop, Gilligan's Island, Indo's Strip, Coyote Bar and Grill, Padi's Point, Spike Bar, Ratsky's Malate, Gerry's Grill, Hobbit House, Forbest Bar, Blue Room, Rolling Stone, Bedrock Bar and Grill, District Bar and Grill, Music21, and Cart Noodle Restaurant.

Jay de Leon, president of Bombproof Gear and an avid adventure racer himself, is seeing action in the Novice category.

For race inquiries, call Enduro at (063) 414-1489 or log on to www.sanmiglight.com.ph.



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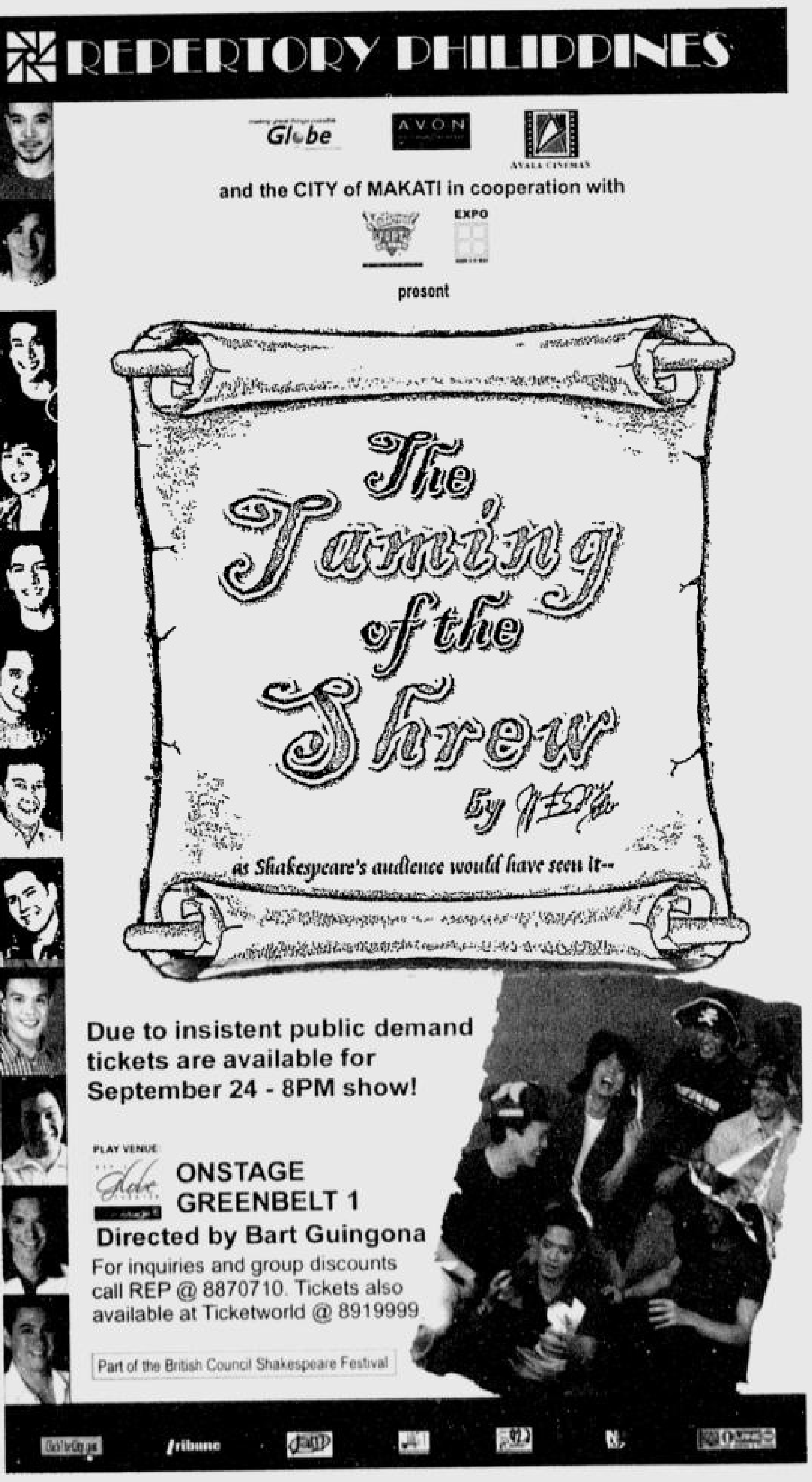

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

# ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

**RIZZA** Navales and Jed Madela hauled home these awards from Hollywood. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

# Twin triumphs

TAKE FIVE

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

UNIVERSAL RECORDS TALENTS JED MADELA and Rizza Navales have yet to recover from the heady excitement of their twin triumphs at the World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA), dubbed Talent Olympics, held in Hollywood last month.

They were still on cloud nine when they met with the press recently.

Indeed, it was no mean feat to bring home four gold medals for Jed, three golds and one silver for Rizza and two golds for the both of them as a duet.

To top it off, Jed was proclaimed Senior Grand Performer of the World.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to honor them with a celebration in Malacañang on Sept. 21.

## JED MADELA

**Did your previous experience in international competitions help you in Hollywood?**

My first contest abroad was Voice of Asia, where I placed second, in 2003. That was just Asia, with 18 countries participating. For the WCOPA, there were 3,000 acts from 51 countries. "Voice" conditioned me.

**Did you encounter prejudice?**

In the beginning, it seemed the other contestants were looking down on us. But after they heard us sing, they became our friends!

**What would you advise singers about to com-**

TWIN/ A2-3

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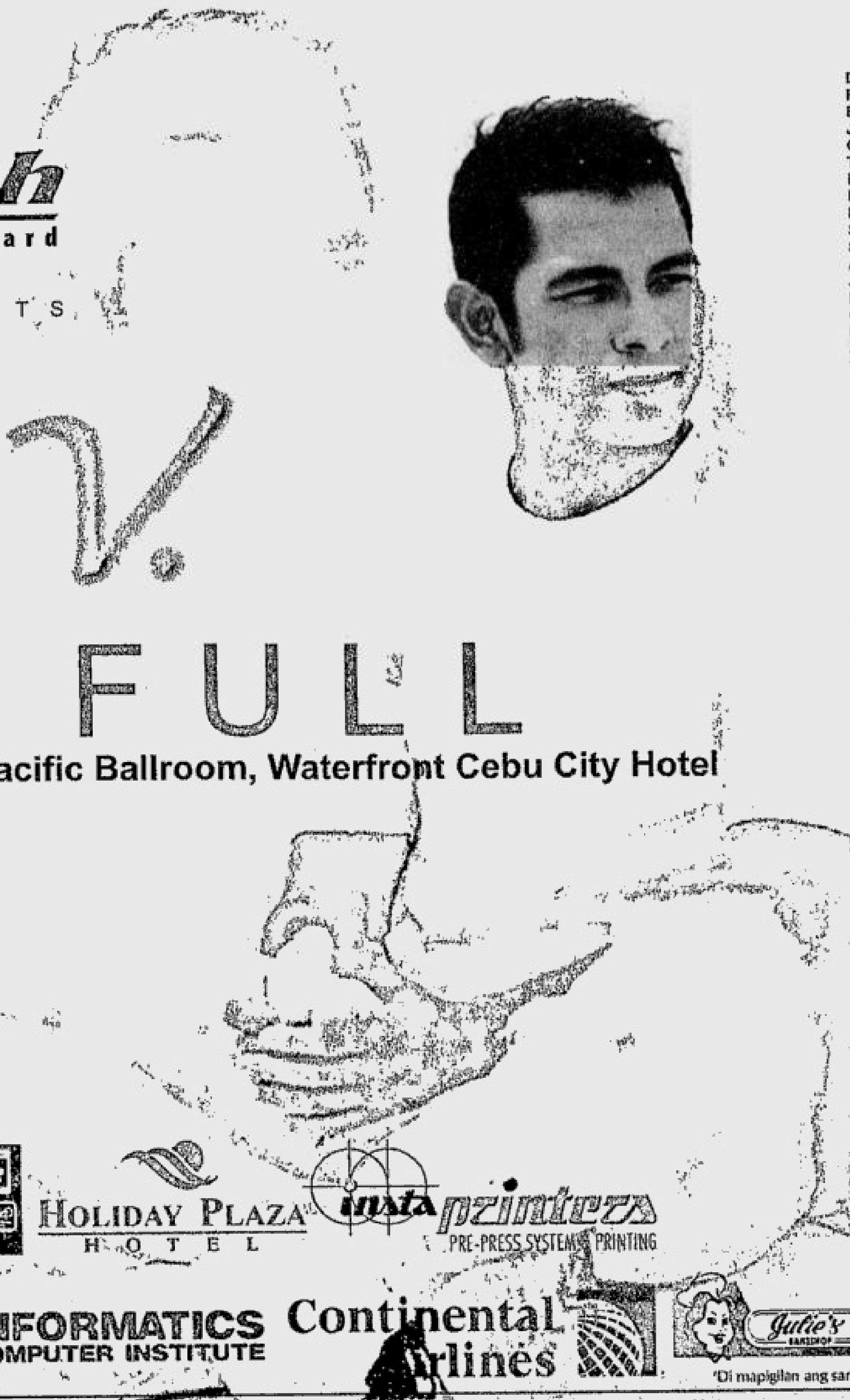

# Gary V.

# SOULFULL

**September 16, 2005, 9 P.M., Pacific Ballroom, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel**

## Special thanks to:

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**May Ann Casal Soriano**
**Melissa Fontano**
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Musical Direction:
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## TV GUIDE

Friday, September 16, 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
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ABC

ClickTheCity.com

| Channel | 2:30PM | 3:00PM | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | 5:30PM | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NBN | Value Vision | | Value Vision | New Life TV Shopping | | Teledyaryo | Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sia? | GSIS Member's Hour | | Tinig ng Bayan (Live) | | Teledyaryo | | | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN 2 | Kapamilya Cinema | | | | Pasion de Amor | Mr. Bean | Naruto | Qpids | Meteor Garden Season 2 | TV Patrol World | Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit | Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin | Kampanerang Kuba | Pinoy Big Brother | Green Rose | 24 | | | Insider |
| ABC 5 | | | EZ Shop | | Asian X-Games Thailand | | | | Sentro | Brunei Cup | | | | | Big News | Real Stories | • | ESPN Golf | |
| GMA 7 | Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako | Now and Forever | Hotelier | 12 Kingdoms | Slam Dunk | All For Love | | 24 Oras | | Extra Challenge | | Dama | Encantadia | Sugo | Attic Cat | Bubble Gang | | | Saksi |
| RPN 9 | TV Shopping | | Defenders Of The Earth | Hey Arnold! | Krusada Kontra Krimen | | Global Battle Of The Bands | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | WWE Smackdown | | Boarding House | | The OC | | Newswatch Now | TV Greats On Friday | | |
| IBC 13 | | EZ Shop | | EZ Shop | | Home Shopping Network | IBC Express Balita | Lifestyle | | MTV | | ME TV | | Men of Power | Sports X-Press | King Of Adventure | IBC News Tonite | MTV | |
| SBN 21 | | New Life TV Shop | | New Life TV Shop | | | | EZ Shop | | | | Oras Ng Himala | | Oras ng Katotohanan | | Superfine Tv Shopping | | Oras Ng Himala | |
| Studio 23 | | | | | | | | The Batman | Justice League | Wazzup Wazzup | | Barkada Nights | | | | News Central | Oprah | | Just Shoot Me |
| MTV Philippines | Pimp My Ride | Rockola | MTV Pop Inc | | Trippin | Hanging Out At MTV | MTV Get Spotted | MTV Live | MTV Live | Massive | MTV Play | Diyes | | MTV Urban Beats | A Test Of Bravery | Viva La Bam | Trippin | MTV Play | VH1 Video Collections |
| MYX | Star MYX | Urban MYX | Rock MYX | OPM MYX | My MYX | Take 5 | MYX Backtrax | MYX Firsts | Mellow MYX | Pop MYX | Urban MYX | MYX Daily Top Ten | | Club MYX | MYX Remakes | My MYX | OPM MYX | MYX Backtrax | Mellow MYX |
| CNN | | Business International | | Larry King Live | | World News | World Sport | Business International | | World News | World Sport | World News Asia | | World News | World Sport | World News Asia | | Your World Today | |
| ESPN | Goals! | Motorsport Asia | Major League Baseball | | | | | | Pro Billiards '05 BCA Open 9-Ball C'ships Finals | | Eng. Premier League Preview | Sportscenter Asia | Women's Pro Billiards '05 | | Major League Baseball | | | | |
| Solar Sports | | | | WNBA Game Finals | | | | FIBA Asia C'ship '05 S'finals | | | | Boxing: Pacquiao vs Valasquez | Sports Desk | | | | | FIBA Asia C'ship '05 S'finals | |
| Sports Plus | | | | NFL 2005 | | | | | | World's Greatest Auto Shows | | Monster Jam | | FMX | | Inside the PGA | Bell Canadian Open Highlights | | 84 Lumber Classics Day1 |
| Cinemax | | | My Husband My Killer | | | Reality Bites (5:15PM) | | | | Red Dragon | | 20,000 League Under The Sea | | | Confidence (10:35PM) | | | | |
| Hallmark Channel | Bewitched | Judging Amy | | HCA: The Fairytaler | Sesame Street | | Mad About You | Bewitched | Ladies Man | Just Cause | | Judging Amy | | A Killing Spring | | | Wife Swap (10:35PM) | | Just Cause (11:25PM) |
| Disney Channel | Mr. Bean: The Animated Series | Totally Spies | Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny | So Little Time | Mickey Mouse and Friends | Martin Mystery | Totally Spies | Kim Possible | Mr. Bean: The Animated Series | House Of Mouse | Wonderful World Of Disney | | | So Little Time | Sabrina, The Animated Series | Mickey Mouse and Friends | Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers | Wonderful World Of Disney | |
| Discovery Channel | | Power Zone | | | | Wild Discovery | | Dangerman: Adventures With Geoff Mackley | | The Most Extreme | | American Chopper | | The Future Is Wild | | Anatomical Travelogues | | Crime Night | |
| National Geographic | | Extraterrestrial | | | | Nomads In Space | | Dogs With Jobs | Toyota World Of Wildlife | Wow! | | About Asia | | Nat'l Geographic Specials: Megacities Week | | Supercroc/ Extraterrestrial: Blue Moon | Ultimate Crocodile/ Extraterrestrial: Aurelia | | |
| Cartoon Network | Scooby-Doo Show | The All New Popeye Show | | Tom & Jerry Show | The Woody Woodpecker Show | X-Men Evolution | Static Shock | Justice League Unlimited | The Batman | SD Gundam Force | Machine Robo-Rescue | Toonami Beyblade V Force Marathon | | | Johnny Bravo | Time Squad | Thundercats | Justice League Unlimited | The Batman |
| Nickelodeon | Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From | Rugrats | Hey Arnold! | My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top | The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron | The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron | | All That | Naturally Sadie | Sabrina, The Teenage Witch | Drake & Josh | Romeo | All Grown Up | As Told By Ginger | Rocket Power | Chalkzone | The Wild Thornberrys | The Angry Beavers | Are You Afraid of the Dark? |
| Lifestyle Network | Country Style | Interiors By Design | Decorating With Style | Decorating Cents | Molto Mario | Sweet Dreams | 30 Minute Meals | Bill Boggs Corner | Unwrapped | Ming's Quest | E! True Hollywood Story | | Behind The Velvet Ropes | Life & Style | | Guess Who's Coming To Decorate | | Blue Velvet | |
| Star World | | The Bold & The Beautiful | | Hollywood Squares | Whose Line Is It Anyway? | Buffy The Vampire Slayer | | The Simpsons | The Drew Carey Show | Star News Asia | Friends | TNA Wrestling | | The Collector | | Angel | | Friends | Karen Sisco |
| AXN | | 24 | | 24 | | Worst Case Scenario | | The Legend Of Condor Hero | The Legend Of Condor Hero | The Amazing Race 5 | | WRC 2005 Rally XS Great Britain | E Buzz | Andromeda (Season IV) | | Warriors Of Heaven And Earth | | | |
| JackTV | Family Guy | Stripperella | The Sib Show | WWE Smackdown | | | | Sweat | Just For Laughs | Mad TV | | Joe Schmo Show | | Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me | | | | Worst Case Scenario | |
| ETC | | Simple Life | Knock First | Blind Date | Fifth Wheel | Elimidate | Change of Heart | Seinfeld | Ambush Makeover | Arrested Development | GBS | Joan Of Arcadia | | Average Joe | | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno | |
| HBO | | | Batman Forever (3:45PM) | | | | Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind | | | | Dragon Storm | | | Patch Adams | | | | The Phantom (10:55PM) | |
| Star Movies | Dancing In The Dark (2:20 PM) | | | Anatomy (3:55PM) | | | Mojave Moon (5:35 PM) | | | The Clown Payday | | | | Rising Sun | | | | Snatch (11:05PM) | |
| Cinema One | | My Funny Girl | | | | Batang PX | | | | Ikaw Lang | | | | Kaaway ng Batas | | | | Gayuma | |
| EWTN | Deep Conversation/ Deep Prayer | Angelus (3:15PM) | Stations Of The Cross | Angel Force | Adventures In Odyssey | Rosary With Mother Angelica | EWTN Gallery | Theology Of The Body | Defending Life | Life on The Rock Encore | | Daily Mass Live | | Angelus (9:15 PM) | Miracles Of The Cross | EWTN Bookmark | Backstage | Father Corapi And Catechism Of Catholic Church | |

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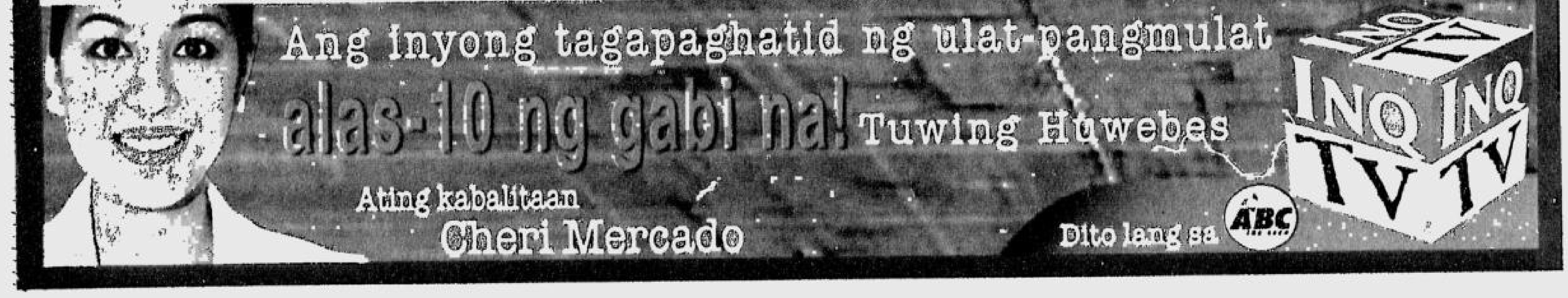
Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

# Twin triumphs

From page A2-1

pete abroad?

Be confident, but not arrogant. Exaggerate your movements, especially if the venue is big.

**How do you take care of your voice?**

Sleep. That's a luxury for me now. I try not to strain my voice. I avoid drinks that are too cold or too hot. Less sweets. I also rehearse. I'm with a band now called Prime Council and we play at Aruba [Ortigas Center].

**Can you still do duets with Rizza, now that you're with "ASAP 2005" on ABS-CBN and she's with GMA Talent Center?**

Of course. We can still do that in concerts and shows. As far as we are concerned, we just want to sing and make people happy with our music.

**Would you consider performing on Broadway?**

I'd love to. One of the judges at the WCOPA, Shele Sondheim, has Broadway connections. And he's interested in doing projects with me.

**What would you like to tell President Macapagal-Arroyo?**

First, I would like to express my gratitude for her support through Pagcor. The government helped us with our registration fees and other expenses. I would also like to convey to her the importance of the entertainment industry. With all our problems now, Filipinos turn to music and movies for comfort. I hope she comes up with more policies that help the industry.

## RIZZA NAVALES

**Is this your first time to join a contest?**

Internationally. I joined singing competitions in Cebu, like Cebu Pop Festival and Cebu Open Music Festival. In one contest, I placed second to ["Star in a Million" runner-up] Sheryn Regis. The following year, I was champion and Sheryn was runner-up. I also joined "Star Quest" on "MTB" and "Star in a Million."

**Would you consider performing on Broadway?**

We met producers who offered us Broadway-type shows in Vegas. But I just signed up with GMA 7. I want to share my music with the people in our country first.

**How do you take care of your voice?**

I avoid cold drinks, alcohol, smoking. I also vocalize. At home, I rehearse, to stretch my range.

**What's the secret of your onstage confidence?**

People's faith in me gives me strength. I get inspired when they tell me that I've made them happy through my songs.

**Did you encounter prejudice in Hollywood?**

At first, some contestants snubbed us. But after our first performance, they started talking to us!

**What would you like to tell President Macapagal-Arroyo?**

I'm thankful for all the help that the government extended to us. I'll also tell her that our good fortune will benefit not only us, but also all our fellow artists.

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michael bublé
live in manila
world tour 2005

Araneta Coliseum · October 12, 2005 · 8pm
Tickets: P 3,654 · P 2,871 · P 1,827 · P 836 | TICKETNET: 911-5555 · www.ticketnet.com.ph
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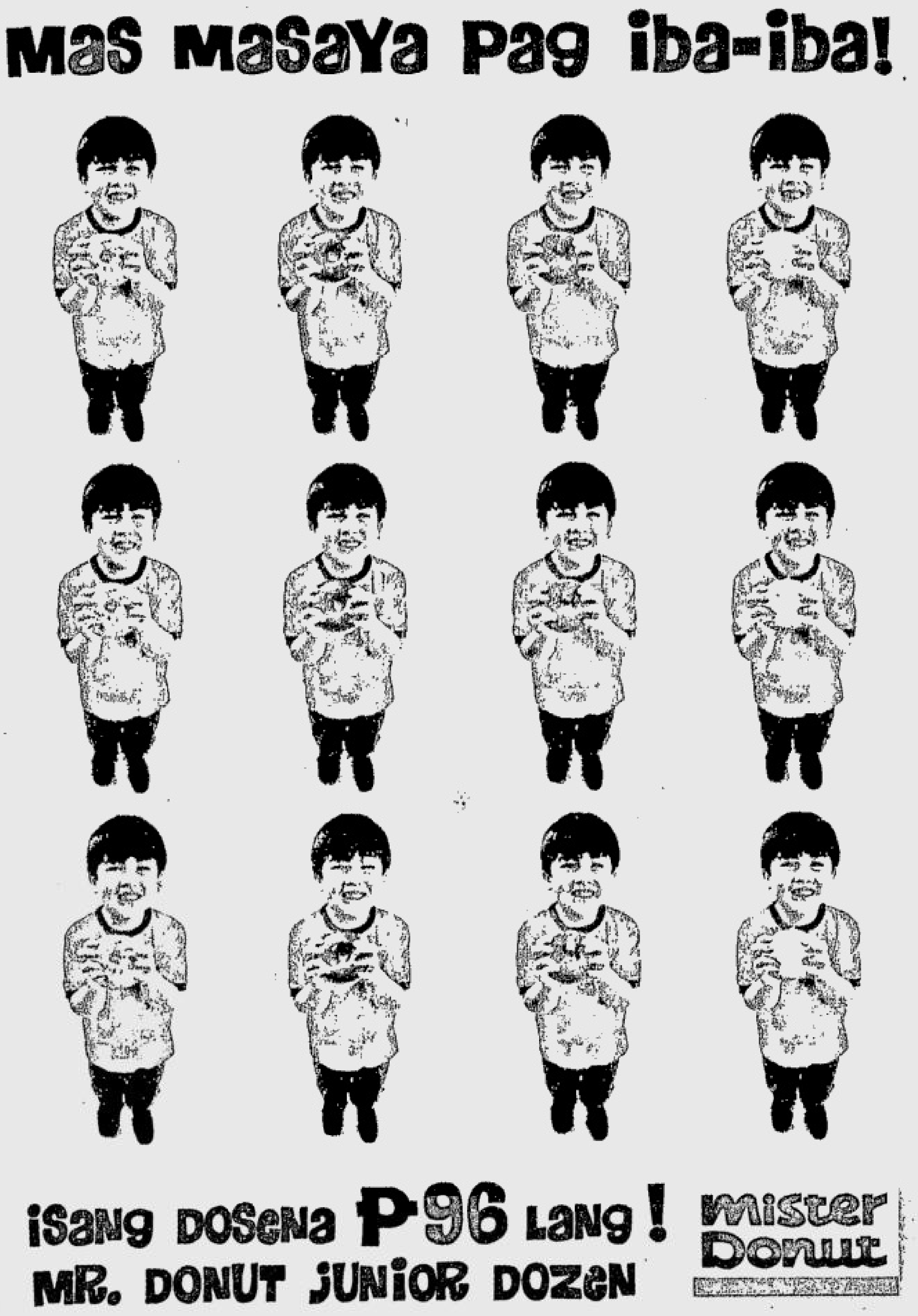
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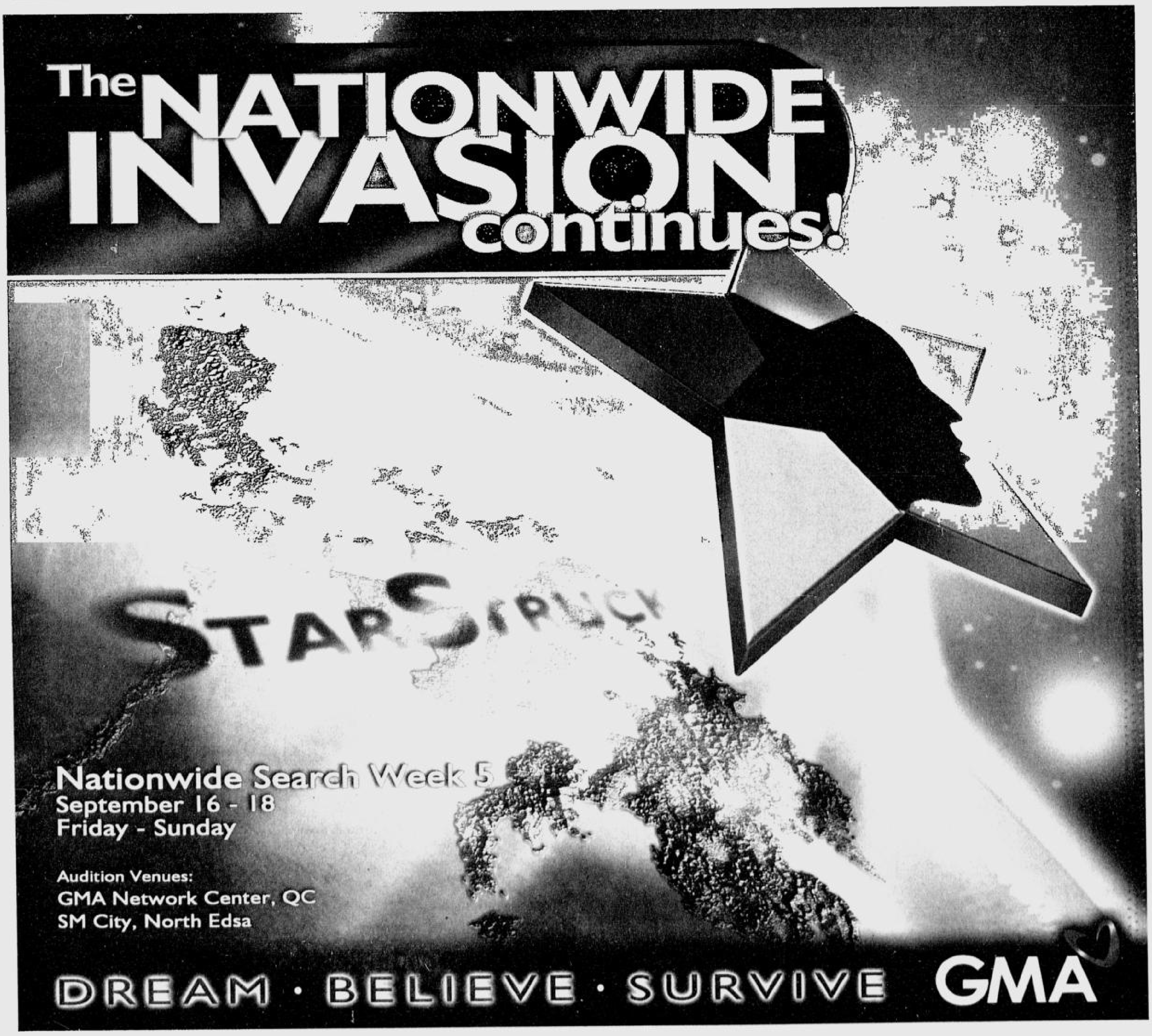
Mister Donut


The NATIONWIDE INVASION continues!

Nationwide Search Week 5
September 16 - 18
Friday - Sunday

Audition Venues:
GMA Network Center, QC
SM City, North Edsa

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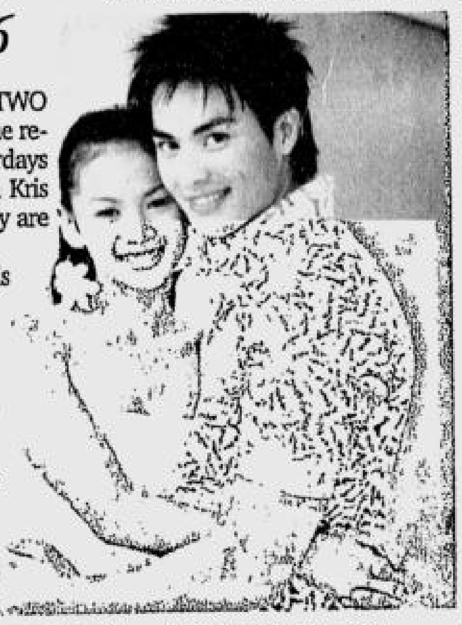
GMA

## *Final call for Famous 6*



KRIS MARTINEZ AND TEENA HILARIO ARE JUST TWO of the young lookers vying for instant stardom via the reality-TV modeling search, "CloseUp to Fame," Saturdays on ABS-CBN. The quest wraps up tomorrow, with Kris and Teena competing with four other finalists—they are collectively known as the Famous 6.

Although they are already ABS-CBN talents, Kris and Teena still joined the contest, which launched many show biz celebrities' careers. Kris, a Bulakeño, is a sports buff and holds a degree in BS Information Technology; Teena, a Davaoeña is a Nursing graduate and is into arts and crafts.

"She's my ideal woman," Kris says of Teena. She returns the compliment: "At first, Kris seems tough and assertive, but he's really a sweet guy."

Tomorrow's final episode will be telecast live from the Philsports Arena in Pasig City starting at 7 p.m.

# Jordis' journey goes on

By Fran Katigbak

**INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE**

JORDIS UNGA—THE GIRL WITH "big hair, big voice, big talent"—bowed out of "Rock Star: INXS" last week.

The 23-year-old was eliminated a few weeks after her very impressive performance of David Bowie's "The Man Who Sold the World." She was the youngest finalist in the reality show created to find a front man for Australian band INXS.

Born in Massachusetts, Jordis moved around frequently with her family and musician-father from Tonga, Polynesia. They settled in St. Paul, Minnesota, where the rocker grew up.

Jordis honed her music and performance skills at the Perpich Center for Arts Education. She later worked at a coffee shop, and then toured with her band, the Fighting Tongs. In 2004, she joined CBS network's "Star Search."

In an exclusive phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Jordis talked about the fateful day, and said she still believed "it wouldn't be a bad step" for INXS to choose a woman to front the band.

**Did you see it coming?**

I tried to prepare myself for it, but I don't think you ever really expect your name to be called.

**How did you feel?**

It was sad . . . It's shocking, but I understand. I'm going to miss my roommates, though.

**You started strong. When did your downward spiral begin?**

I couldn't pinpoint exactly. I think I just got insecure about the talent I brought with me.

**In the past weeks before your elimination, INXS and Dave Navarro repeatedly mentioned your being the youngest contender. Did that bother you?**

The fact that my age came up so late is like, if they wanted to play the age card on me, they should've done it when I got there. I think that my age is irrelevant.

**People referred to you as the angel or darling of the group. What do you think of that?**

That's interesting. I don't know what to say.

**Were you somewhat of a peacemaker or just someone who didn't go into the drama and controversy among the other rockers?**

I don't give in to drama. I'll be the first person to walk away from that. I'm not sure how that looked on TV but I'm not one to get into conflicts.

**What are your plans?**

Right now I'm excited to go home and hug my family. I think opportunities may present themselves and I would love to have a career in music so I'll probably still pursue that.

**Do you still believe INXS is willing to be fronted by a woman now that only one female rocker (Suzie McNeil) is left?**

Absolutely. It wouldn't be a bad step for them and Suzie's got one foot in.

**Of those remaining, who's you're favorite?**

Everybody deserves to win. Any one of them would be a fantastic front person.

**You and Marty Casey have been pretty close. Do you see a musical collaboration with him in the future, whether he wins or not?**

If the opportunity presents itself, I would work with him again. We have similar writing styles and tastes in music.

**What were you doing before joining "Rock Star"?**

I was in a band, the Fighting Tongs, before I came here.

**Your dad visited you during one of the performance episodes. What did he think of you being a finalist?**

He was just beside himself. He's a musician, too. When I left [to join "Rock Star"], he was sort of passing the torch to me. He gets to live vicariously through me.

**Was your dad an influence to you musically?**

Absolutely—I grew up watching him perform.

**In a nutshell, how would you describe your "Rock Star" experience?**

I was the greatest thing—every side of extremes—and I wouldn't trade it for anything.

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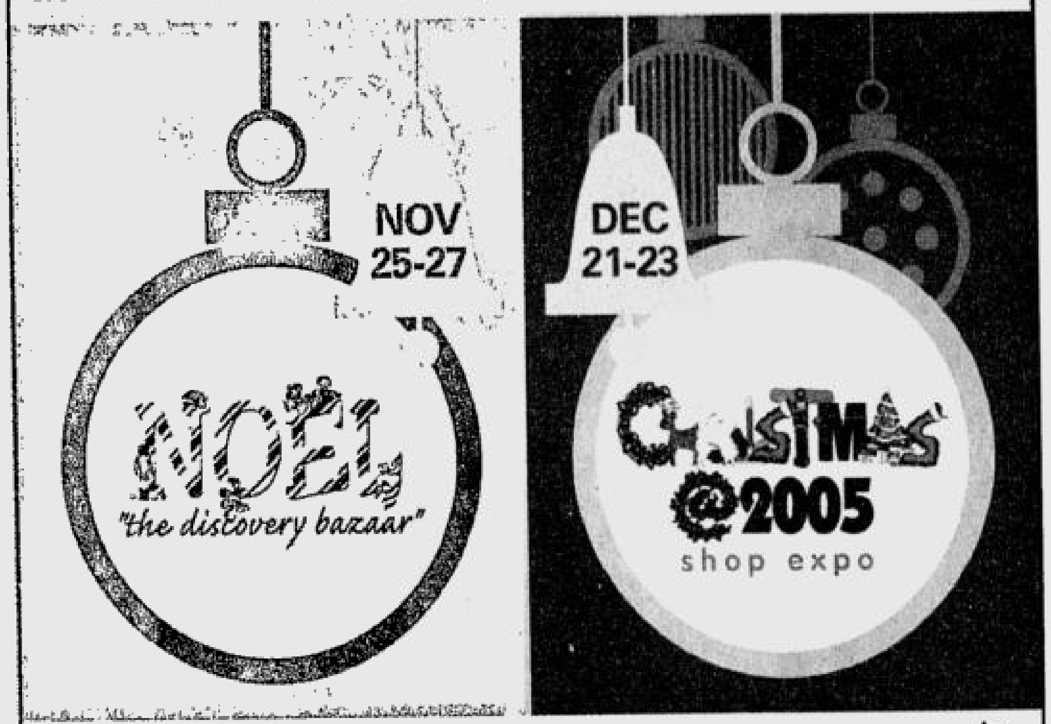

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## SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS

**Friday, 16 September 2005**

3:00 – 4:00 pm
**Acer Technology Innovation**
Jess Cheng, *Product Specialist* -Acer Notebooks
Acer Philippines, Inc.

4:00 – 5:00 pm
**Advantages of Whitebox Notebook PC: Time to Market**
Wowie Wong, *Channel Account Manager*
Intel Microelectronics Philippines, Inc.

5:00 – 6:00 pm
**Mobility**
Heidi Co, *Product Manager*
Epson Philippines Corporation

6:00 – 7:00 pm
**Open Up and Unlock a World of Possibilities**
Richard Bangayan, *Product Manager, Asus Notebook PCs*
Banbros Commercial, Inc.

**Saturday, 17 September 2005**

10:00 – 11:00 am
**Mobile Computing: The Benefit of Internet Access Anytime, Anywhere**
Matthew Lloren, *Marketing Manager - Product Development*, Innove Marketing RNB
Innove Communications, Inc. (Globelines)

11:00 am – 12:00 nn
**Experience the Freedom of Wireless Networking**
Joel Ocampo, *Product Specialist, Linksys*
Cisco Systems, Inc.

1:00 – 2:00 pm
**Mobile Printing Lifestyle**
Katrina Tioseco, *Product Assistant - Digital Cameras and Selphy Photo Developers /*
Jill Santiago, Product Assistant - Canon BubbleJet Printers
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

2:00 – 3:00 pm
**Wireless Internet Service**
Martin Lopez, *Product Manager - GlobeQUEST Internet VAS*
Innove Communications, Inc. (GlobeQUEST)

3:00 – 4:00 pm
**Release Your Jabra**
Alex Chua, *Sales and Marketing Head*,
JabraComlan, Inc.

4:00 – 5:00 pm
**Ultra Portability / Burn Clip Burn / Fiendly Power**
Mr. Jonathan Dee, *Managing Director*,
NetEssentials Corporation /
Mr. Carlo Ma. Guerrero, *President - Pinoy Windows Mobile and Microsoft Most Valuable Professional for Windows Mobile*
Network Essentials, Inc.

5:00 – 6:00 pm
**Portable Music and Movies Whenever and Wherever You Go**
Jason Teh, *General Manager*
Quadtron Technologies, Inc.

6:00 – 7:00 pm
**Apple iPod**
Maleng Raysa, *Operations Manager*
Apple Center

**Sunday, 18 September 2005**

10:00 – 11:00 am
**Colour Your Music**
Rose Dee Oquendo, *Product Manager, Creative MP3 Products*
Axis Global Technologies, Inc.

1:00 – 2:00 pm
**Digital Lifestyle**
Cecilio Tuanquin, *Sales Manager - Apple, iPod, iPAQ*
Microwarehouse, Inc.

2:00 – 3:00 pm
**Windows Mobile**
Rey Vegafria, *Founder, Airfagev.com*
Microsoft Philippines

3:00 – 4:00 pm
**Mobility and Portability**
Michael Payumo, *Sales and Support Manager*
Intersystem Technologies, Inc.

4:00 – 5:00 pm
**Highlights for VPC Viper Notebook**
Ricky Talato, *Product Manager*
VillMan Computer Systems, Inc.

5:00 – 6:00 pm
**The Integral V. Mic**
Erwin Abad, *Sales Manager*
Video Vox Corporation

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DIRECTOR Dante Mendoza between his actors, Alan Paule, left, and Coco Martin

# 'Masahista' in Toronto, sweet Ralph in London

**ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD**

*Ruben V. Nepales*

TORONTO, ONTARIO—EVeryone is sleep-deprived here at the Toronto International Film Festival but no one more so than director **Ang Lee**.

Ang told me that right after he arrived at a Toronto hotel lobby following a long flight from Venice, he was told to fly back. "You're kidding," the Taiwan native said. No one was dishing a cruel joke, though. He was whisked back to the airport and onto a plane because his "Brokeback Mountain" had won the Venice Film Festival's top prize, the Golden Lion, and he had to be present at the awards gala.

Ang claimed his trophy and then flew again to Toronto. Our press group applauded him as he entered a function room in Park Hyatt Toronto. "For Asians, the Golden Lion is a prestigious prize so I had to go back to Venice," he said to me. But of course that award is prestigious, period. I felt very proud for a fellow Asian.

Last weekend, we attended the premiere of "Brokeback Mountain" at the majestic Elgin Theater in downtown Toronto. Ang missed the long, sustained applause by the audience as the end credits rolled because that was the day he had to jet back to Italy.

In "Brokeback," **Heath Ledger** and **Jake Gyllenhaal** give stirring performances as two cowboys in conservative 1960s West who unexpectedly fall in love with each other while working as ranch hands in a desolate Wyoming mountain range.

### Jubilant Pinoys

Also jubilant were the "Masahista (The Masseur)" folks because their film got picked up for North American distribution by Picture This! Entertainment. Toronto-based **Ferdy Lapuz**, upon whose concept the movie's story is based, rounded up the group so we could meet them at our hotel lobby. After we congratulated director **Brillante "Dante" Lopez** for "Masahista's" Golden Leopard Award win in the video competition of the recent Locarno International Film Festival, he told us that next on his itinerary were more film fests, including the ones in Vancouver and Chicago. "I'm overwhelmed with the audience's appreciation of the movie," he told us.

We met the film's stars, **Alan Paule** and **Coco Martin**, and the latter's manager, **Ihman Esturco**, who is also the film's supervising producer. Alan noted that his "Macho Dancer" premiered here about 15 years ago. And yet this is his first film fest, in a movie where he sort of passes the baton to Coco, who smiled when we remarked that his briefs-clad image on brochures and flyers is all over town.

### Writing his obit

A colleague told the great **Ralph Fiennes** during our recent interview with him in London that she thinks his obituary will be mostly about him playing Voldemort in the "Harry Potter" movies. Ralph broke almost simultaneously into an embarrassed grin, a horrified though still half-smiling expression, his tongue almost slipping out like a boy's and "uh-oh" written all over his expressive porcelain-like face.

"I better write my obituary now," he declared, still grinning but obviously concerned. "It's not going to say that."

That moment at the Crystal Opal room of the Dorchester Hotel was one of the pleasures of interviewing Ralph Fiennes (pronounced "Rafe Fines"), who is set to play **Bernard Lafferty**, the gay Irish butler of **Imelda Marcos**' late friend, **Doris Duke** (she left her entire fortune to Lafferty). The actor, whose image is almost synonymous with "brooding" and "tortured" is—surprise—given to breaking into the sweetest grins. There is an almost childlike quality to him when he smiles—even the blue eyes that project hurt or agony so well onscreen brighten up, slant-

RALPH/ A3-3

ANG Lee collects awards from around the world. Never mind jet lag!

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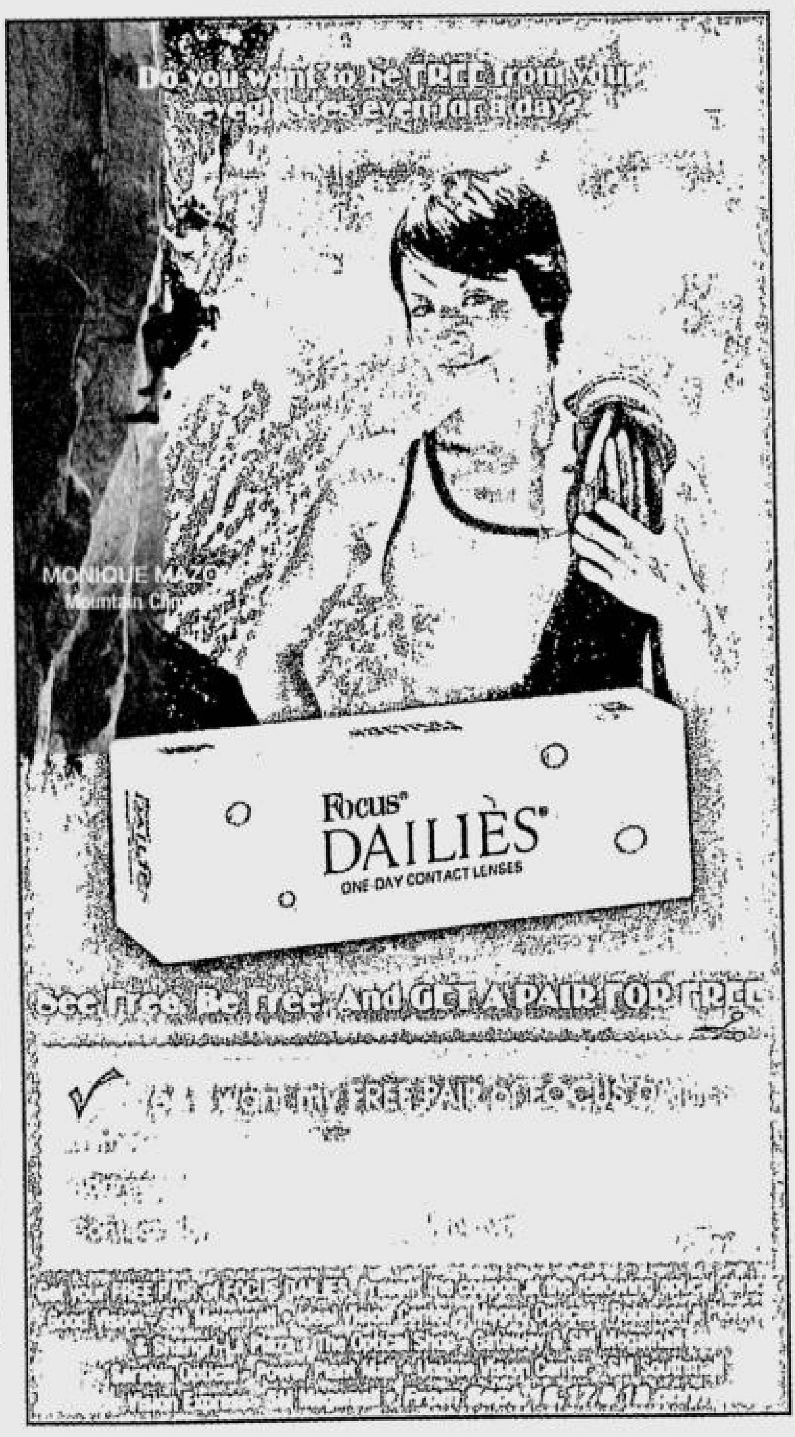

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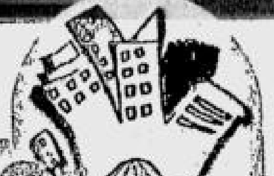

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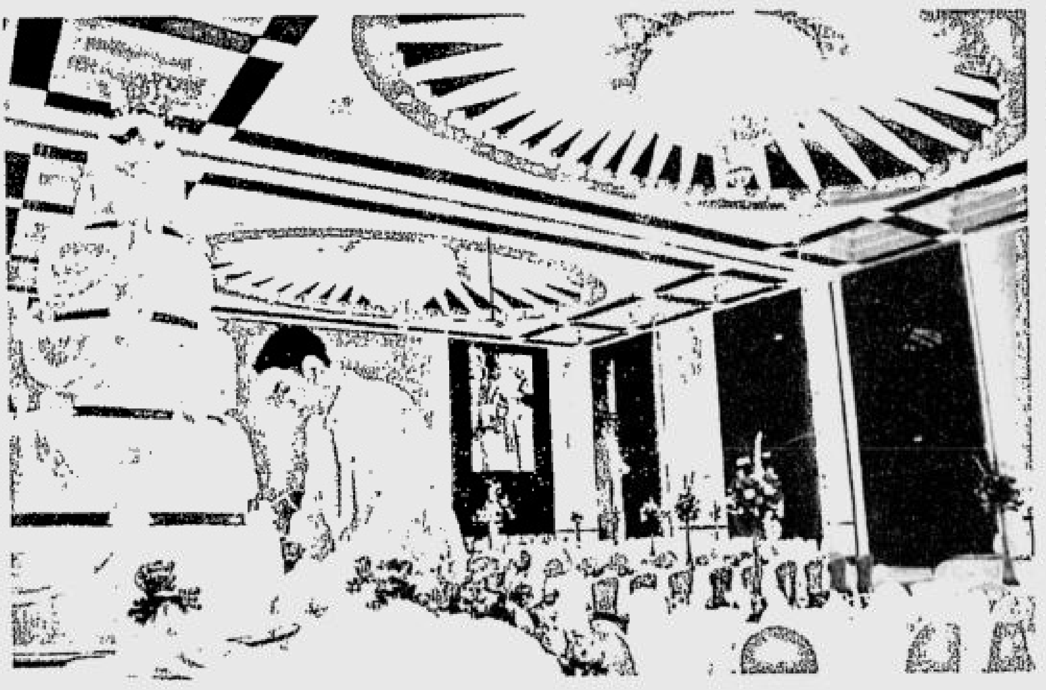
# Mandarin Oriental's Mid-Autumn Moon Festival set tomorrow

CELEBRATE THE MID-AUTUMN Moon season with splendor and pageantry, as Mandarin Oriental, Manila welcomes the moon on the eve of the mid-autumn in its Sheung Yuet night tomorrow, Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m. The festivity promises two Asia Miles certificates, each for 25,000 mileage points (equivalent to two roundtrip economy class tickets to Hong Kong), and a two-night stay at Mandarin Oriental, Macau, for the lucky raffle prize winner.

Occurring on the fifteenth day of the eight month of the Chinese lunar calendar when the moon is at its brightest, the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival has become an occasion for family reunions all over the world, which like the ubiquitous moon cakes that abound during the season, symbolizes family solidity and union. The enchanting evening begins at the poolside, as geomancer Joseph Chau performs an auspicious Paai Shan ritual to augur positive chi energy, followed by a musical performance by 92 AD, who will sing some well-loved Chinese tunes and other romantic melodies such as, You Are The Sunshine of My Life, Yue Liang Dai Piao Wo Di Xin, Xin Yuan Liang Hu Tieh Meng, and Ain't No Mountain High Enough.

A hearty buffet dinner follows at Tin Hau at P988++ (adult) and P588++ (child below 12 years old), inclusive of the pre-dinner show, a colourful lantern and a Linkok token; while a special lunch buffet on Sept. 18 and 19 is offered at P888++ (adult) and P488++ (child).

Apart from a special buffet menu, Tin Hau also offers two ten-course set menus from Sept. 17 to 19 at P1,188++ (adult) and P1,388++ (child), which include dishes symbolic of unity: Chicken sharks' fin soup; Suckling pig combination; Deep-fried prawn "Szechuan" style; Steamed live grouper "Chi Lin" style; Assorted dried seafood with superior sauce in clay pot; Steamed fried rice wrapped in lotus leaves; Stir-fried sliced chicken with cuttlefish in X.O. sauce, Sweetened white fungus with lotus seed and red dates, to name some.



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The Weekend Madness room package is available for local residents and foreign guests with valid Alien Certificate of Registration. Rates are subject to 10 percent service charge and 10.5 percent government tax. Rooms are subject to availability.

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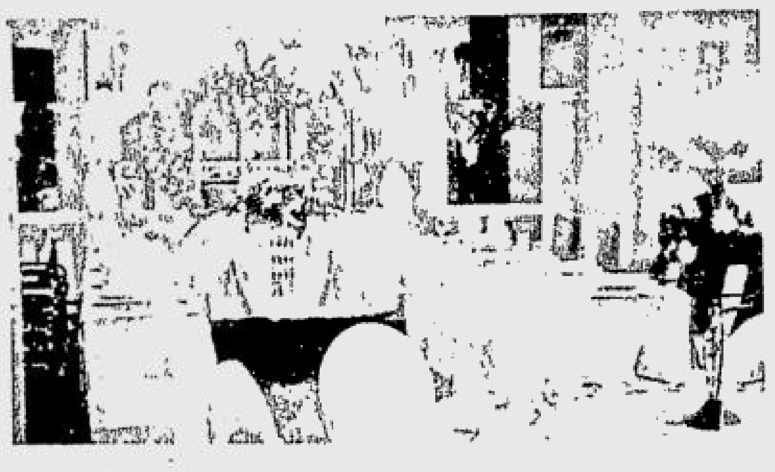
Its wedding and debut packages come for as low as P59,000+ inclusive of a buffet menu for 100 persons, a cake, souvenirs, floral arrangements, and other amenities. For those special get-togethers, its Party Package comes for as low as P24,750+ inclusive of buffet menu or barbecue grill and discounts on drinks.

Spending a relaxing day or a weekend with the family is a breeze with City Garden Hotel's room offering as low as P1,350 per person on twin-sharing basis. It is inclusive of a choice of free sumptuous buffet breakfast for two or a Spa service at the hotel's Body & Face by Mendez, free use of its open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck and its fully equipped Gym at the Penthouse.



**LANDBANK HOLDS TRAINING AT THE EXECUTIVE PLAZA HOTEL**
**Landbank Countryside Development Foundation Inc recently had a Risk Management Training for Countryside Financial Institutions at the Aguinaldo Ballroom of The Executive Plaza Hotel. Shown in the photo are the participants of the seminar with their resource person vice president Teresita E. Cheng (seated, center). Kristine Paras - account manager and Lizette Narvs - banquet account manager of The Executive Plaza Hotel facilitated the said function.**

# Ralph in London...

From page A3-1

ing into surprise windows of glee.

My colleague, of course, is wrong (and I'm sure my editor, a Ralph Fiennes devotee, will agree). Playing the evil Voldemort will never overshadow Ralph's previous outstanding performances in "Schindler's List," "The English Patient," "Quiz Show," "The End of the Affair," "Oscar and Lucinda," "Onegin" and "Spider." Let us not even mention his stage successes, from "Hamlet" to "Julius Caesar."

Add his portrayal of a British diplomat in "The Constant Gardener" to this long list and it should explain why Ralph can't simply be remembered for a villainy lord wizard role. Every newspaper and magazine in the US is raving about this film.

A scene in "The Constant Gardener" stands out in my mind, as well as that of Time magazine's film critic. As a tragic piece of news is delivered to Ralph's character, the camera lingers on his face for a long time. He stays calm at first but then a slow build-up of emotions—from alarm to grave concern to grief simmer on his face. The anguish is finally expressed finally in his hands—the tension makes him accidentally break a branch of the plant that he was tending. This scene alone, aided by Fernando Meirelles' deft direction, is worth the price of the ticket admission. If ever Ralph had to come up with a clip to highlight his career someday, this scene should do it—no montage of other performances is necessary.

When I watched this film that switches back and forth from the slums of Kenya to bastions of power and commerce in Europe, I wondered, would Lino Brocka have been making an international movie like this if he were still alive? Adapted from **John le Carre**'s novel of the same name, "The Constant Gardener" has everything—action, drama, romance (between Ralph's character and his wife, wonderfully played by Rachel Weisz) and politics.

At the risk of oversimplifying the plot, the film is about a diplomat, Justin Quayle, avenging his beloved one's death triggered by that 21st century big bad villain—a multinational pharmaceutical company which uses Third World nations as testing sites for overpriced and bogus drugs.

Best Actor nominations are already being bruited about for Ralph, the 42-year-old brother of "The Great Raid" star **Joseph Fiennes**. Ralph and stage actress **Francesca Annis**, who is 19 years his senior, have been together since 1994.

Below are excerpts of our rambling interview with Ralph.

**What was it like working with Brazilian director Fernando Meirelles?**

For some people, Fernando was probably quite an unusual choice for this film. Only because previous movie adaptations of John le Carre's books have been treated conventionally, cinematically. If you have seen "City of God," you know that Fernando has a unique and highly energized cinematic and editing style, which I suppose you could call documentary-like. But it has great energy. And the way he shoots has great energy. He himself is a very sweet natured and gentle man. He thinks in strong editorial terms when he's shooting which I found very exciting. What I particularly found was that I've been on some movie sets where there's a lot of preparation for the camera which can result in a beautiful shot. But the energy of the scene or the situation that is being filmed can dissipate while you're waiting. And it's the opposite on this film. Because Fernando works very fast with his director of photography **Cesar Charlone**. So I love this continuous feeling of alertness and energy that existed. And Fernando's very open. Rachel and I enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere of flexibility and spontaneity. Fernando encouraged us to play a little bit with the dialogue just to find those moments, particularly between Justin and Tessa Quayle (his and Rachel's characters) that suggest the sort of intimacy between a couple.

**Were you aware about this issue with some pharmaceutical companies in Third World countries, particularly in Kenya?**

We were all given a copy of this documentary on a case where a big pharmaceutical company tested an unsound drug on unsuspecting people.

**You play a good guy here but you have also been compelling in evil roles. Which one do you prefer?**

There's something meaty about playing a full-on baddy, but it's quite disturbing to try to get inside the head of someone like **Amon Goeth** (in "Saving Private Ryan"). I wanted to do this film particularly because I loved the character of Justin. He's a good decent man with a quiet dignity at the beginning, but he's suddenly thrown into the horrific situation of the brutal murder of his wife and then something shifts inside him as he starts to investigate her death. His love for her becomes stronger.

**What did a gardening coach, whom you had for this movie, teach you?**

I'm not a gardener; my father was a brilliant one, a constant gardener of sorts. So I grew up with gardens. I have helped with gardens. When I was young, I gardened for pocket money, mostly for elderly ladies who needed their lawns mowed or some weeding done. When we started filming in Germany, I requested to meet a professional gardener just to talk about gardening. It's silly to generalize too much but there is a quality of patience and nurturing that good gardeners have. And a kind of gentleness that's necessary to be attentive to growth in plants. Also a kind of fascination with the way a plant will evolve, grow and die. Then you plant another plant or it will resurface in another season. There's a quality of attentive watchfulness which is very particular to Justin.

**Your character has reason to be jealous. Are you the jealous type in real life?**

I'd like to think I'm not. But you never know, do you? It can be one circumstance that comes up and it hits you in the face. Suddenly, you're very jealous. I've been jealous on occasion, sure.

**Can you relate on a personal level to Justin—have there been people that you appreciated more when you no longer have them by your side?**

Yes, quite a few people. These things are always very hard to talk about. And, in a funny way, what I do as an actor to build up my sense of the emotional life of a character feels quite private. Because you internally make a connection between the imagined world of the character and things you've experienced yourself because they can jog or provoke a feeling inside you. We've all experienced Justin's suspicion of his wife's possible infidelity and then finding out she was loyal to him all along. It doesn't have to be a lover. It could be a sibling, a parent or a close friend.

**How did Kenya affect you personally, especially when you saw the kids? That lifestyle is so far removed from yours.**

A visitor to the African countries is hit by a number of different sensations. You steel yourself not to be appalled. You can be shocked and upset by the lack of sanitation. You have to walk across open sewers full of human waste. It is shocking. But at the same time, we encountered extraordinary vitality, warmth and openness. These were particularly transparent in children. That affects and moves you. It's curious because I had, almost at the same time, the sensations of being depressed and upset and being uplifted.

**Do you still like acting in plays?**

I find it very hard to be away from the stage for too long. I love the feeling of being in front of an audience. In many ways that's a proper arena for an actor. I'd hate to lose that connection. I love going to see plays in a language I don't understand. Of course I miss a lot of the text. But I love to get the sense of spirit and gesture of performers.

**Would you rather work outside the Hollywood studio system?**

I'm completely open to offers from the studios in Hollywood. Some of my experiences there have been fun but not ultimately as fulfilling as other films I've made that are not Hollywood. I don't want to be holed up in a corner and labeled any particular label.

Some great films have come out of the studio system and they continue to come out. But a lot of [studio] stuff is quite generic. Studios need to sell their films to as many people as possible. So there is this whole pressure on the product. I can go into a film like 'Maid in Manhattan' and absolutely recognize upfront that it is designed as a money making project. I had a good time making it but it wasn't the most fulfilling role for me at all. I like to have different experiences. It was wonderful to be shooting in New York with J Lo. And then come back home and do a play by Ibsen.

**Why do you think le Carre called his book "The Constant Gardener"?**

My feeling is that John le Carre wanted to show someone who might apparently be very un-heroic, not the obvious material for a hero, who becomes quietly strong. That has a correlation with the patience that's needed to nurture a plant into growth, to bloom. I've always thought that a good gardener has to be constant, present, watchful, alert and tender. I find that a very moving idea, that Justin essentially never changes his gentle nature. He becomes tough, insistent and quite passionate toward the end. But he never betrays his spirit. I feel the metaphor of the gardener as one of being present, always with a loyalty and a determination to keep loving. People love their plants. I think at the heart of it, it's about love.

REGENBOGEN
FABRIK

FIENNES (shown here as "The Constant Gardener") loves traveling alone and communicating with people who speak no English.

**Have you met le Carre and has he seen the film?**

I met him for the first time when Fernando came over to England to meet Simon, our producer and myself. John Le Carre came and joined us and we had dinner together. I know that John Le Carre was very excited about the possibilities that Fernando would bring to interpreting the story. And I know that he is very pleased with the film.

**When you do movies about corruption and you become aware of the issues, does it make you want to champion a cause?**

I'm not instinctively like that. It's not in my nature to be easily angry about things. I also think a bit like Justin, that quiet diligence, real focus, clarity and careful interaction with people can also bring about change.

**The lovemaking scene here is probably one of the most spontaneous-looking we've seen in years. Did you and Rachel improvise completely or was it all choreographed?**

It was pretty loose. By the time we did that scene, we were quite our way into the shoot. Rachel is a wonderful acting partner, very warm, relaxed and funny. And we had a laugh. One of the best things to make those scenes work is a sense of happy relaxation between the two people. It was not choreographed—it was just us having the confidence to play a bit. Also, Fernando would tell us, do that again, undo that button, take off that stocking. It had all to do with the ease, sparks and relaxation.

**Were there other scenes where Fernando allowed you that freedom?**

Yes, mostly in my scenes with Rachel. Like in a scene when she's in the bath and I come in with a camera—that was all made up. Fernando loved that. For other scenes we couldn't do that because there was too much important information.

**This movie opened your eyes to Kenya. Do you like to travel elsewhere?**

I love to travel. I went on a trip to Vietnam recently because I was curious to see that country many years after the war. I had never been to Southeast Asia. I like traveling on my own. I love the curious little instances that traveling on your own can offer and having to communicate with people, often through sign language or broken English. I think also that anyone's personality and spirit is expanded a bit by going to other countries, particularly countries that are radically different in lifestyle from our own.

The two trips that I've done with UNICEF, one to Uganda and one to Kyrgyzstan, were great eye openers for me about the huge problems that people face, whether it's through disease or displacement from their home, the sheer poverty, lack of educational facilities and lack of any certainty in their lives. It's humbling because people who have nothing also have a kind of dignity, courage and spirit. But there are people who have too much and yet they don't have those virtues.

**Do you take home the miseries that you witness? Do you ever forget them?**

I don't think you ever forget some of these experiences. In a sense, you never can shake them off. But I don't think you should go around being full of shame and grief. I don't think that these negative emotions are helpful. You can be affected by something and then go to quietly help change whatever it is. In my case, by giving support to something like the UNICEF. Or by donating money.

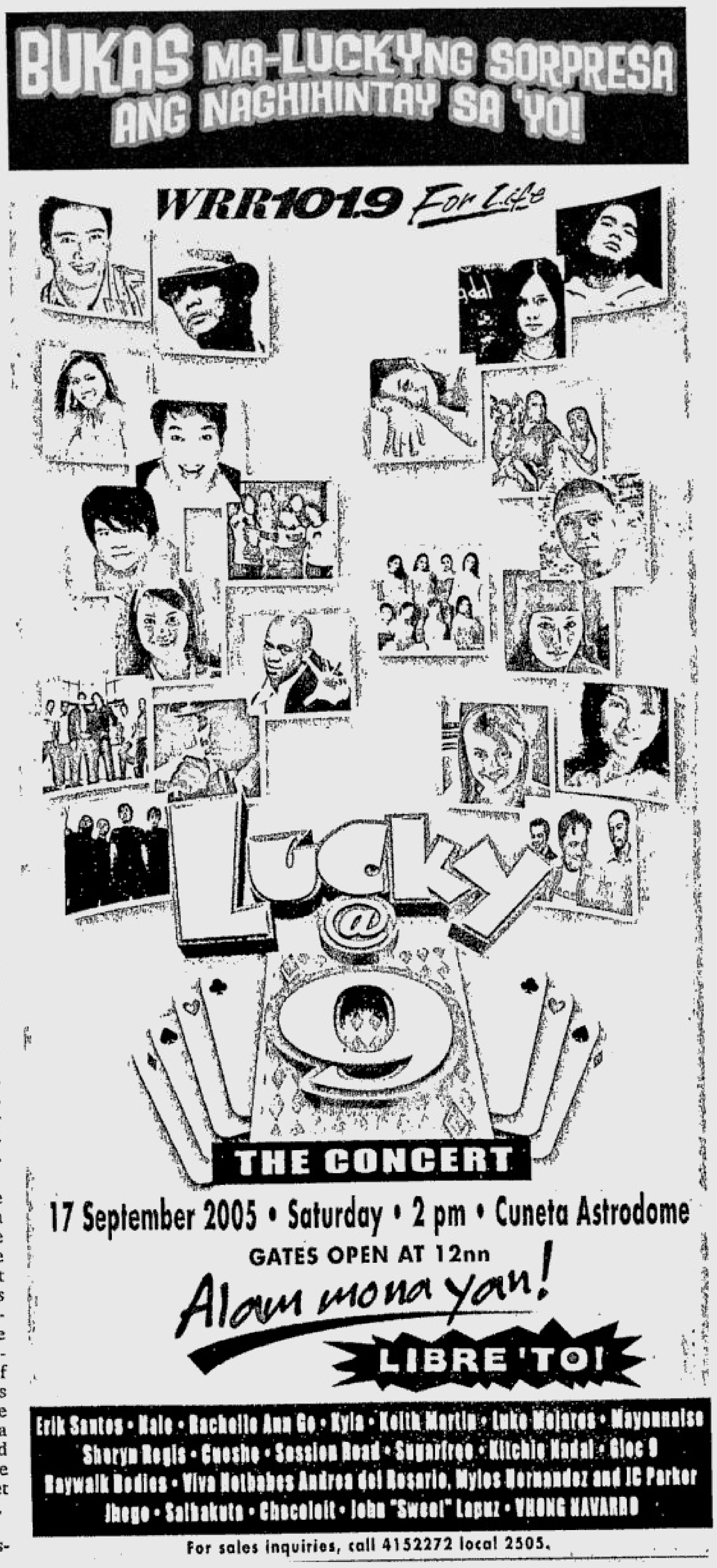
**You have done such great work in your acting career but I have the feeling that in your obituary, it's going to say that you were Lord Voldemort.**

I better write my obituary now. Because it isn't going to say that. I took the part because I like **Mike Newell** (director of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"). I get to be extremely unpleasant to Harry Potter, which I was looking forward to. I might get one or two more opportunities to do so. Well, if the world chooses to see my career culminating in my performance as Lord Voldemort, there's nothing I can do about it. But there might be more than one obituary.

**Do you talk movies with your brother Joseph? Do you give him advice?**

We get along very well. We talk about our family. We just hang out. We talk about work a little bit, sometimes. No, I wouldn't presume to give him advice. He's often away. I'm often away. I don't see any of my siblings as much as I would like.

*(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)*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| SOUTH PARAÑAQUE/SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION | • SEPT. 28-30 |

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BUSINESS
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# OFW remittances surged 25.7% in July

**THE CONTINUING** rise in the demand for Filipino workers abroad reflects the comparative advantage of OFWs in terms of skills.

## *First 7- month total rises 22% to $4.7B*

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

DOLLARS SENT HOME by overseas Filipinos surged by 25.7 percent in July to $885 million from $703.91 million a year ago as more skilled workers sought greener pastures abroad.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday that this brought the January-to-July remittances from migrant workers to $5.8 billion, or 22.1 percent better than the $4.7 billion level a year ago.

"The continued rise in remittances resulted from the increase in the number of deployed Filipino workers and the sustained efforts by commercial banks to provide banking assistance to overseas Filipino workers' (OFWs)," BSP Officer-in-Charge Diwa Guinigundo said.

The major sources of remittances were the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

Citing preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Guinigundo noted that for the first seven months of the year, the total number of Filipino workers deployed abroad rose by 5.2 percent to 599,196.

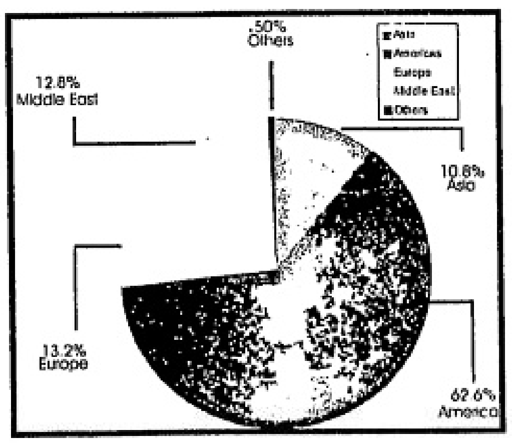
Land-based workers increased by 3.9 percent to 453,398 while sea-based workers likewise rose by 9.4 percent to 145,798.

"The continuing demand for Filipino workers abroad also reflects the comparative advantage of OFWs in terms of skills," Guinigundo said.

"This can be attributed in part to the government's training assistance to OFWs aimed at further advancing human resource development as well as reinforcing employability and competence—such as computer literacy, seafarers' training and education with new maritime equipment and training facilities," he explained.

Meanwhile, he said commercial banks remained aggressive in their campaign to provide assistance to the growing number of Filipino workers abroad through the introduction of enhanced modes of remittance transfers, establishment of more remittance centers and strengthening of arrangements with foreign financial institutions and collection agents to facilitate OFW transfers.

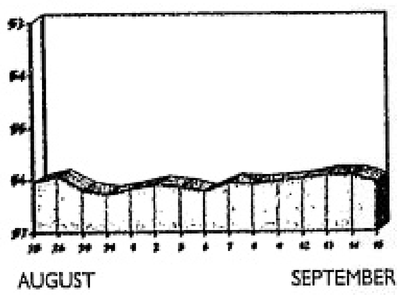
In Saudi Arabia, Guinigundo said it helped that the country's monetary au-



OFW/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱56.07 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 15, 2005

¥110.46 = $1

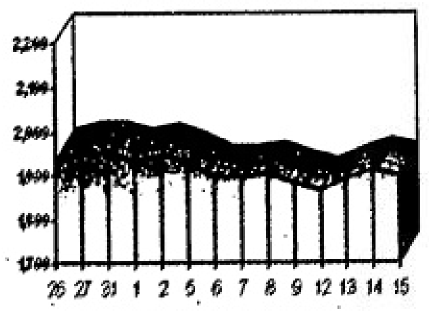
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 15, 2005

GOLD: $449.00-449.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 15, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

### Shares close 0.61% lower

SHARE prices closed 0.61 percent lower yesterday, ending a two-day rally after further losses on Wall Street and a fresh spike in oil prices hit sentiment, dealers said.

They said the return to higher oil prices after the latest US oil stockpiles data was unwelcome given the possible impact on inflation and the risk the central bank could hike interest rates as a result.

The composite index fell 11.65 points to 1,903.09, off a high of 1,918.81. Turnover was 612 million shares worth P803.7 million.

The broader all-shares index retreated 5.79 points to 1,164.24.

Losers beat gainers 35 to 17, with 49 stocks unchanged.

"This is a correction after the technical rebound," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

He said the market failed to sustain the gains of the past two days in the absence of fresh positive leads and after oil prices resumed their uptrend, prompting fresh concerns about the impact on the economy.

"Give me one good reason why the market should rise and I'll give you 10 reasons why it shouldn't," Vistan said.

Dealers said an expected tightening in monetary policy also dampened sentiment.

"Investors have turned short-term, given lingering concerns on oil. Politics also remains a disincentive to trade," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities, referring to efforts to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most active stock, falling P20 to P1,540.

SM Prime Holdings declined 10 centavos to P7.10, while parent SM Investments was unchanged at P212.

Meralco-B, available to all investors, was down a peso to P20.50. Meralco-A, limited to local buyers, was unchanged at P13.75.

Ayala Corp. eased P2.50 to P295 while unit Ayala Land was flat at P7.70.

San Miguel-B, open to all investors, was unchanged at P95, as was San Miguel-A, limited to Filipino investors, at P65.50. *AFP*

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## Platinum bucks SEC move

EMBATTLED PLATINUM Plans Phils. Inc. is contesting the authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to declare it insolvent and unfit for corporate rehabilitation.

In a document filed yesterday with Branch 61 of the Makati Regional Trial Court, Platinum said SEC's findings on its supposed financial condition were "unreliable and insufficient" and "completely without basis."

SEC had said that based on its financial examination, Platinum's total assets were only P2.95 billion, compared to liabilities of P3.24 billion, making it insolvent.

Platinum, however, said in its counter-manifestation that SEC admitted during hearings at the Makati RTC last Aug. 24 and 31 that its auditors "merely conducted" an ocular inspection of its pieces of property and "arbitrarily arrived" at a capital deficiency of P290.88 million.

Platinum, thus, asked the trial court to consider its petition for rehabilitation and approve its rehabilitation plan.

SEC has yet to file its opposition to Platinum's rehabilitation scheme. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

# Pre-need plan sales dropped 69% in July

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

PRE-NEED PLAN SALES PLUNGED 69 percent to P1.27 billion in July from P4.08 billion in the same month last year as the industry continued to reel from the financial woes plaguing major pre-need companies.

From January and July this year, sales dropped 40.5 percent to P13.4 billion from P22.45 billion in the same period last year, the Securities and Exchange Commission said in a monthly sales report.

During the seven-month period, life plans fell 52.3 percent to P2.56 billion from P1.68 billion in the same period last year.

Sales of education plans, on the other hand, dropped 50.4 percent to P3.99 billion, while sales of pension plans declined by 46.4 percent to P6.8 billion from P12.71 billion in the same period last year.

For July, education plans led the slump in sales, with a 76.3-percent drop to P311.5 million from P1.31 billion in the same month last year.

Sales of pension plans also sank 68.6 percent to P777.8 million in July from P2.48 billion in the same period last year.

In July, the SEC said the number of plans sold dove 63.2 percent to 17,812 from 48,473 in the same month last year.

Education plans tumbled 78 percent, followed by pension plans which slid 63.5 percent and life plans which dropped 40.6 percent for the month.

Investors have shied away from pre-need plans due to the financial troubles hounding the big players.

So far, three major pre-need firms have sought court protection from creditors and plan holders due to their inability to settle liabilities.

Leading the list is College Assurance Plan Phils. Inc. with over 700,000 plan holders, followed by Pacific Plans Inc. with 34,000 and Platinum Plans Phils. Inc. with 37,000.

In education plans, Berkeley International Plans dominated sales in July with P146.9 million, followed by Philam Plans at P45.8 million and Prudentialife Plans at P33.5 million.

For life plans, Philam Plans was the top seller with P56.9 million, trailed by St. Peter Life Plans with P41.7 million and Prudentialife Plans at P25.8 million.

For pension plans, the top three companies that captured sales for the month of July were Prudentialife Plans (P217.3 million), Philam Plans (P175.9 million) and Manulife Financial Plans (P117.1 million).

CAP meanwhile has been dealt another blow on Wednesday after the SEC filed criminal charges for its unauthorized sale of pre-need plans.

## PPI gets its day in court

TROUBLED PRE-NEED FIRM Pacific Plans Inc. will have its day in court—for the second time.

Branch 61 of the Makati Regional Trial Court on Sept. 8 accepted PPI's petition where the pre-need firm argued that it could not use the trust funds of its healthy plans to pay claims of its old open-ended plans.

The supplemental petition PPI submitted on Aug. 8 came after the pre-need firm filed for rehabilitation.

The court set another hearing on Oct. 5.

Even as PPI officials welcomed the news, they said that it would still be impossible for them to settle the debts of the firm when they fall due.

They said the trust funds of various products—fixed value education, memorial and pension plans—could only be used to service their respective plan holders. They said they could not use the funds to pay benefits due to open-ended education plan holders.

Earlier, the Securities and Exchange Commission stripped Lifetime Plans—a former PPI subsidiary that sells fixed value education plans—of its certificate of incorporation or the document that allows a company to exist.

In subsequent orders between June and July, the Makati court also ordered the consolidation of the assets and liabilities of Lifetime with PPI, paving the way for Lifetime to be folded back into its parent company.

PPI's spokesperson, Maria Jeanette C. Tecson, in a statement said that Lifetime plan holders should not worry since they would continue to be paid.

Tecson said that the trust funds corresponding to their fixed value plans are intact and can answer for their benefits.

The official also said PPI is legally constrained to pay tuition claims this coming semester. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 15, 2005)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30.5 | 1,008,700 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 51.5 | 51.5 | 51.5 | 51.5 | 1,059,800 |
| China Banking Corp. | 840 | 840 | 840 | 840 | 440 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 300 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 150,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 49.5 | 49.5 | 48.5 | 48.5 | 80,600 |
| International Exch. Bank | 18.5 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 1,500 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 26 | 26.5 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 336,400 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 12,500 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 30 | 31 | 30 | 31 | 43,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 29.5 | 29.5 | 29.5 | 29.5 | 6,500 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 2840 | 2850 | 2840 | 2850 | 420 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1 | 1 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 308,000 |
| Phil. Stock Exchange Inc. | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 2,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 2065 | 2065 | 2065 | 2065 | 910 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 13.25 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 82,000 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.99 | 0.99 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 230,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 740 | 750 | 740 | 740 | 68,570 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 16,000 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 200,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 2.9 | 2.95 | 2.9 | 2.95 | 809,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1555 | 1555 | 1540 | 1540 | 127,820 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.55 | 0.56 | 4,810,000 |
| POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.5 | 13.75 | 20,800 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 21.5 | 21.5 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 1,500,200 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 35,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 3.1 | 3.15 | 3.1 | 3.15 | 1,544,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 100,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 8.5 | 8.8 | 8.4 | 8.7 | 2,406,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.55 | 0.56 | 2,430,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 9,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 190,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 35 | 35.5 | 34 | 35 | 279,700 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 40,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 65 | 65.5 | 65 | 65.5 | 18,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 97 | 97 | 95 | 95 | 173,600 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 410,000 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg B | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 2,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 297.5 | 297.5 | 292.5 | 295 | 67,160 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 5 | 5 | 4.95 | 5 | 12,660,000 |
| Alliance Global Group Inc. | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 3,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 3,100,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 2.08 | 2.1 | 2.08 | 2.1 | 1,464,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 100,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.67 | 0.67 | 0.66 | 0.66 | 620,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1,960,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.215 | 0.215 | 330,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.185 | 0.19 | 0.185 | 0.19 | 250,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.25 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 1,040,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 50,000 |
| Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 255,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 44.5 | 44.5 | 43.5 | 43.5 | 1,649,900 |
| House of Investments Inc. | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 180,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 48,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 2,159,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 10,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.31 | 0.32 | 3,450,000 |
| Polar Property Holdings | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 49,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 250,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 212 | 212 | 212 | 212 | 51,370 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.75 | 0.76 | 0.75 | 0.76 | 100,000 |
| Tanduay Holdings Inc. | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 4,000 |
| Unioil Res. & Holdings Co | 0.165 | 0.17 | 0.145 | 0.17 | 2,470,000 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.92 | 0.93 | 0.92 | 0.93 | 210,000 |
| Acesite Phils Hotel Corp. | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 1,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.74 | 0.74 | 0.74 | 0.74 | 20,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1,661,000 |
| Manila Jockey Club | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 50,000 |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr) | 13.25 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 1,256,800 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 100 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 100 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 8,072,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.94 | 0.96 | 0.94 | 0.96 | 720,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 3,900,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.34 | 1.34 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 5,672,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 100,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 4.65 | 4.8 | 4.65 | 4.8 | 1,929,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.155 | 0.16 | 0.155 | 0.16 | 1,280,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.32 | 1.34 | 29,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 4,918,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co., Inc B- | 0.94 | 0.96 | 0.91 | 0.96 | 580,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 100,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 8.4 | 211,000 |
| Benguet Corp. A | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 10,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.245 | 0.26 | 66,300,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.3 | 0.31 | 26,950,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 37,000,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 59,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0055 | 0.006 | 0.0055 | 0.006 | 51,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.81 | 0.81 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1,440,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 1 | 1 | 0.99 | 1 | 1,410,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 321,700 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 10,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 1,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.008 | 0.0085 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 135,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0085 | 0.009 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 47,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 90,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 20,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 3.65 | 3.7 | 3.65 | 3.7 | 18,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 1,000,000 |

## Cebu Pacific seeks $4 hike in fare

CEBU AIR Pacific, the country's second-largest carrier, has asked the Civil Aeronautics Board for an additional $4 fuel surcharge on one-way overseas trips.

This will bring the Gokongwei-owned carrier's fuel surcharge to $15 from $11.

Cebu Pacific also asked the CAB to let it charge a fee of 10 US cents a kilogram of cargo to cover the increasing costs of jet fuel. Cebu Air is the first carrier to ask for a fuel surcharge on cargo carried on overseas trips.

Cebu Pacific flies within Asia but has plans of expanding to the United States in two years.

Starting October, it would fly to Osaka in Japan.

Philippine Airlines, on the other hand, has a pending petition to increase its fuel surcharge on one way long-haul trips to $49 from $37. *Clarissa S. Batino*

## RP business risks rising, says ADB

THE RISKS TO DOING BUSINESS in the Philippines are rising, leading to a sharp drop in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Southeast Asian country in recent years, according to an Asian Development Bank study.

Rising fiscal deficits, the increasing influence of vested interests in the courts and in lawmaking, and the government's weakness "in creating and enforcing freely competitive and/or regulated markets" act as deterrents to prospective investors, said the report, obtained by AFP Thursday.

"While private enterprises dominate the economy, effective competition does not exist in many sectors," it added.

The Manila-based ADB said private investment flows to the Philippines slowed after the 1997 Asian crisis "and have yet to recover."

Gross domestic investment fell to 18.1 percent of gross national product (GNP) in 2002 from 23.8 percent of GNP in 1998.

FDI flows, meanwhile, plunged to $100 million in 2003 from a high of $2.1 billion in 1999.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's government reported earlier this week that FDI flows had jumped 191 percent from a year earlier to $495 million in the six months to June but the total was a pittance compared to amounts going to many of Manila's developing Asian neighbors.

"For foreign investors, the perceived risks of doing business in the Philippines are rising, encouraging them to seek alternative investment destinations" such as China, South Korea and Thailand, the ADB report said.

*AFP*

## Mirant appoints new head for RP unit

**By Abigail L. Ho**

ATLANTA-BASED MIRANT CORP. has appointed Mirant Carribean Inc. president James Harris to lead its Philippine operations by Oct. 1, replacing Edgardo Bautista.

Bautista, however, will remain in the company as vice chair of Mirant Philippines.

He will also retain his chief executive position until Jan. 1, 2006.

As president of Mirant Carribean, Harris was in charge of developing new business in the Carribean region.

He was also on top of the operations of two vertically integrated utilities, Jamaica Public Service Co. (JPS) and Grand Bahama Power Co., as well of independent power producers PowerGen in Trinidad and Tobago and Curacao Utilities Operating Co. in Curacao.

He sits as chair of the board at JPS, management committee chair at PowerGen, and member of the boards of PowerGen, Grand Bahama and the American Foundation of the University of the West Indies.

He also heads Curacao integrated water and electricity firm Aqualectra.

Bautista, on the other hand, has contributed to the growth of Mirant's Philippine operations.

From having a total installed capacity of only 835 megawatts (MW) in 2000, Mirant Philippines is now the country's biggest IPP with 2,300 MW.

HARRIS

## CURRENCIES

| September 15, 2005<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.814001 | 1.000000 | 55.8910 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007379 | 0.009065 | 0.5067 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.485144 | 1.824500 | 101.9731 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.104903 | 0.128873 | 7.2028 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.647060 | 0.794913 | 44.4285 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.689188 | 0.846668 | 47.3211 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.484755 | 0.595522 | 33.2843 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.627409 | 0.770772 | 43.0792 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.159268 | 2.652661 | 148.2599 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.217067 | 0.266667 | 14.9043 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.483316 | 0.593754 | 33.1855 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000081 | 0.000100 | 0.0056 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.019922 | 0.024474 | 1.3679 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.221630 | 0.272272 | 15.2176 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.228500 | 68.6621 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.279006 | 0.342759 | 19.1571 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.348982 | 0.428725 | 23.9619 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134109 | 0.164753 | 9.2082 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018576 | 0.022821 | 1.2755 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.215984 | 0.265336 | 14.8299 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.075255 | 0.092451 | 5.1672 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.576733 | 0.708516 | 39.5997 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.013621 | 0.016734 | 0.9353 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.128264 | 0.157572 | 8.8069 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000794 | 0.000975 | 0.0545 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.024870 | 0.030553 | 1.7076 |

# ISM wants total control of ETPI

**By Carissa S. Batino**

ISM COMMUNICATIONS CORP. plans to acquire more shares of Eastern Telecommunications Phils. Inc. after it completes its buyout of a 40-percent block from an Australian firm.

The company controlled by businessman Roberto V. Ongpin had asked the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange to approve a P300-million stock rights offer to bankroll the acquisition.

"The proceeds of the rights offer will be used to possibly purchase more shares of stock of ETPI to support operations of ETPI or such other projects the company may embark on in the future," said ISM in its disclosure to the PSE.

ISM expects to offer the stock rights by the end of the year.

ISM already owns 17.7 percent of ETPI through a share-swap agreement with Aerocom Investors and Managers Inc., a company owned by the Nieto and Lobregat families.

Aerocom now owns 6.8 percent of ISM.

Then ISM is also finalizing an $8.2-million infusion from a group led by Ashmore Investment Management Ltd. of the United Kingdom together with Araza Resources Corp. of Gregorio Araneta III and Boerstar Corp. of Ongpin and ISM president Eric Recto.

The $8.2 million is enough to finance ISM's purchase of Australian Gigahertz Network International Ltd.'s 40 percent stake in Eastern Telecoms.

Aside from Aerocom's 17.7 percent and Australian Gigahertz's 40 percent, Ongpin said his group would also buy the government's 10.2-percent clean stake in ETPI should it consider selling.

The block, the result of a settlement between Marcos associate Roberto Benedicto and the government, is held by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

This is separate from the 22.3-percent stake sequestered by the PCCG from Marcos associates Manuel Nieto and Thomas Africa.

"We are interested in those shares to get 67.9 percent, which is absolute control. We could use part of the proceeds of the rights offering to buy the government stake," said Ongpin in an earlier interview.

ISM told the SEC and the PSE that its minority shareholders have allowed the company to enter into a private transaction to raise $8.2 million before conducting a rights offer.

The PSE requires companies to prioritize existing shareholders in any rights offer before taking in new investors.

In ISM's case, two of the companies that bought new shares through a private placement were controlled by existing majority owners.

## OFW remittances . . .

From page B1

thority had granted a license to one bank in lieu of the closed money exchange companies—a move meant to address money laundering problems. This contributed to the increase in remittances as transactions were coursed through the banking channels, he said.

The level of remittances for the month of July alone, however, was lower than the all-time high of $935.28 million for the month of June.

The Philippines has been relying on huge remittances from OFWs to boost domestic consumer demand. In 2004, OFW remittances coursed through the banking system pumped $8.5 billion into the economy.

Relative to the size of the country's economy, the amount of OFW inflows was now equivalent to about 10.5 percent of gross domestic product. Also, it now accounts for about 20 percent of the value of the country's export of goods and services and about 1.8 times the value of net electronic exports

The BSP is trying to encourage OFWs to course their remittances through the formal banking channels.

Some local bankers estimate that remittances going through the informal channels could be double that being captured by the banks, although the BSP itself, for purposes of computing the country's external accounts, assumes that total remittances would only be 20 percent higher if informal transactions were included.

Informal channels refer to unlicensed or unregulated operations such as friends, acquaintances or other travelers.

The Philippines is recognized as a global pioneer in innovative ways to capture migrant remittances which are, in turn, recognized as a powerful yet understated ticket out of poverty.

# Revolt of the Hacienderos II

**COCKTALES**

*Victor C. Agustin*

YOU MAY DISAGREE WITH THE Makati Business Club's political stance, but at least you have to hand it to their board members for having the courage to put their heads on the block by disclosing who among them signed the resign-GMA manifesto. (See Cocktales, Sept. 14, 2005, for background.)

Unlike the MBC's, a similar statement issued almost simultaneously by the Management Association of the Philippines bore absolutely no signature.

Here is what apparently happened.

According to MBC, the club invited colleagues from the MAP to attend the emergency meeting that tumultuous July 8 morning to discuss the resignations of the so-called Hyatt 10.

The MAP contingent that rushed to the Peninsula Manila included Simon Paterno, Peter Wallace, Evelyn Singson, Jaime Ladao, Cynthia Mamon, Francisco Eizmendi, Nieves Confesor and Arnold Salvador.

The newly resigned secretaries Juan Santos and Cesar Purisima were there to give the hacienderos and their Makati suit brigade a blow-by-blow account of their dissatisfaction with the Malacañang tenant.

Melito Salazar Jr., president of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, also joined in, as the lone representative from Finex. A recently retired Monetary Board member, Salazar later co-signed the MBC statement, along with MBC chair Ricardo Romulo.

According to the grapevine, PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan was unable to attend the Pen meeting as he was still winging his way to Manila from his Hong Kong office.

Economist Bernardo Villegas, who offered during the Cory years to cut off an arm (or was it his head?) if his prediction were proven wrong, was this time more discreet, not even answering the gentle ribbing of his Benguet Corp. chair, Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, why he was a no-show at the MBC meeting and, more important, refused to sign the anti-GMA statement.

"After deliberation, from among those present, a position paper asking for the President's resignation was read and commented upon," the MBC minutes of the meeting said.

"Each board (referring to MBC, MAP, Finex) was provided copies of the draft statement and all agreed that each board would meet separately to arrive at its own decision."

The president of the Social Security System, Corazon dela Paz, had to leave for another meeting in Quezon City and did not see the final version of the MBC statement, although she later indicated her approval by affixing her signature.

It is not clear, given her resign-GMA stance, how Dela Paz's tenure at the SSS would be affected. She was said to be in Europe at the time of this writing.

(A note on spelling: There is no "haciendero" to be found in Spanish dictionaries. The closest, "hacendero", means "thrifty" or "industrious", and could by no stretch of imagination mean "hacienda (ranch) owner" in the Spanish-Filipino sense of the term.)

## $170 to West Coast

NORTHWEST Airlines is again offering its tantalizing cash-and-miles promo for budget frequent fliers.

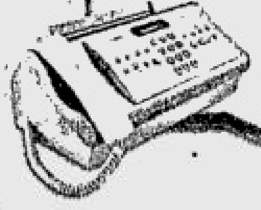
Roundtrip, economy class fare to major West Coast cities, as well as Honolulu and Las Vegas, goes for $170 plus 40,000 frequent flier miles; same-class passage to East Coast destinations, on the other hand, goes for $270, plus same mileage.

Tokyo and Nagoya are even more affordable, at $120 and 10,000 miles.

Those who book through the Northwest website can even lop off an additional $20 for every fare.

Fine print: Departure from Manila is allowed only up to Dec. 15. Return is valid up to 60 days,

COCKTALES/B4



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3rd Prize Winner
RAQUEL BALBIDO
Makati City
Nokia 6020 cellphone worth ₱15,000

# Nordic states eye energy projects in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

NORDIC COUNTRIES SWEDEN, FINLAND, Norway, the Netherlands and Denmark are considering investment and business opportunities in the country, particularly in the area of new and renewable energy.

In a briefing yesterday, Swedish envoy Annika Marcovic said President Macapagal-Arroyo's emphasis on the development of renewable energy resources, in light of the global oil price crisis, had sparked interest among Nordic companies to look at business opportunities here.

"There's great interest among Nordic firms to also share the technologies and solutions that we can provide," she said.

Norway's SN Power, said Royal Norwegian Ambassador Stale Risa, was also looking at the Philippines as one of the emerging markets that it could tap.

SN Power is involved in hydroelectric power development in emerging markets.

"SN Power's interest in the Philippines is indicative that there's really interest in the market," he said.

Dutch companies have also started to see the sense in getting into the Philippine market, particularly as they had a lot of experience in developing renewable energy resources, Royal Netherlands Embassy deputy chief of mission Ric Hettinga said.

"Many companies now see the commercial possibility of coming to the Philippines. High oil prices do help (push the development of) renewable energy, especially in the remote areas," he said.

Dutch firms Solland Energy BV and TSS4U (The Solar Solutions for You) are working with local companies Aboitiz Power Solutions Inc., Delnet International and Resourcement Inc. for the development of practical solar energy solutions that are well suited to the Philippine market.

Through a Netherlands government-supported feasibility study, Hettinga said the companies were "outlining the conditions under which solar energy can be used on a larger scale in the Philippines."

Another Dutch company, Emergya Wind Technologies BV, was also keen on finding business partners in the country to market wind energy solutions, he said.

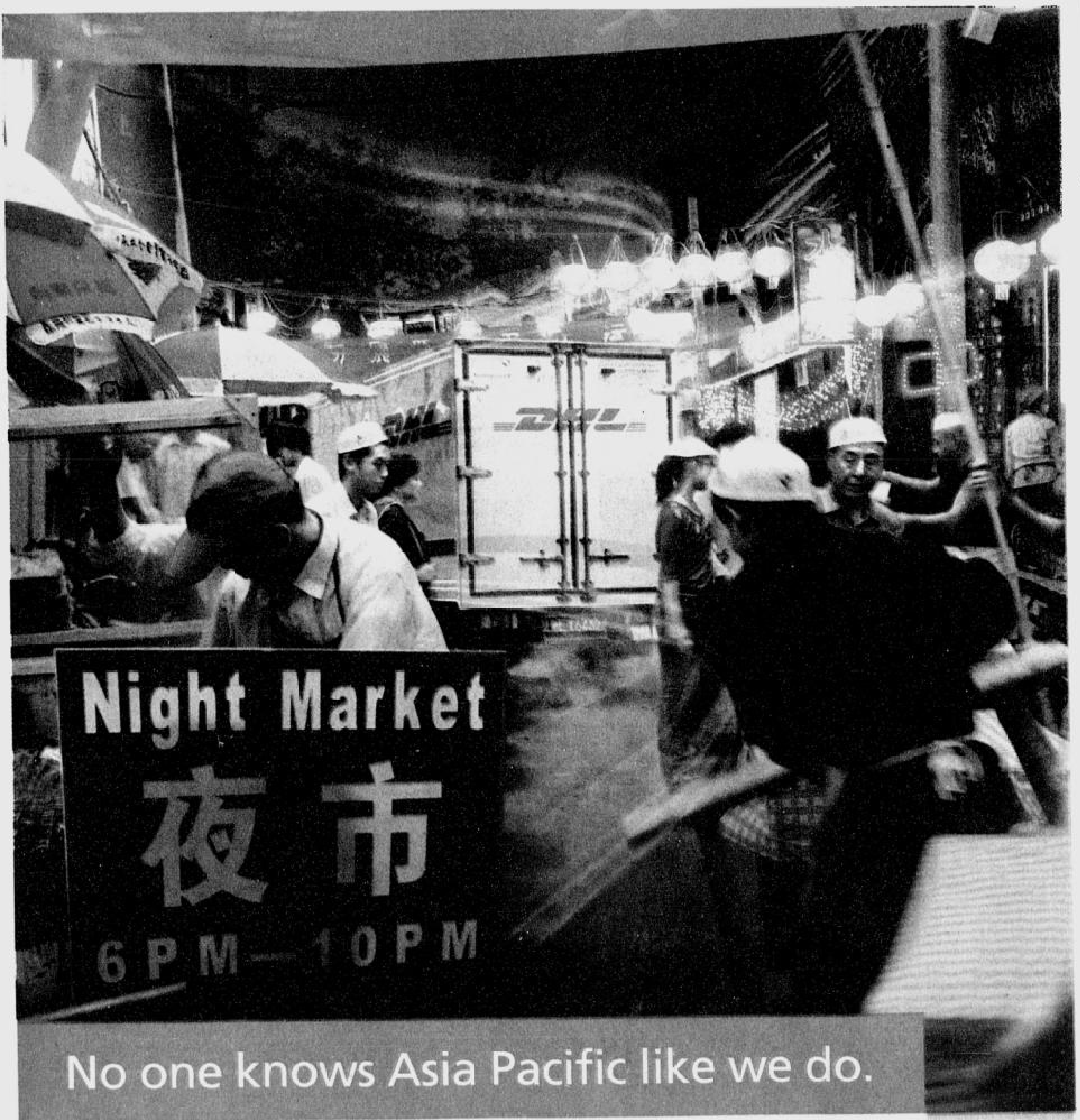
Shell Solar Philippines Inc., one of the companies under the Royal Dutch Shell Group, is also currently implementing a solar home system project with Philippine National Oil Co., which entails the installation of 15,100 solar home systems in off-grid locations.

The project is being financed in part by a 60-percent grant from the Netherlands' ORET.

For her part, Finnish envoy Riitta Resch said companies in her country were willing to come here to "see and decide for themselves the opportunities in this market."

She added that Nordic firms were also willing to introduce technologies and solutions that would help the country develop its energy resources.

"We won't tell the Philippines how to address its local market. (Nordic companies) will just be presenting solutions that have been proven to work in our countries," she said.



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# Implementation of early harvest program pushed

## Tariff cuts on products traded with China

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

MALACAÑANG IS MOVING TO accelerate the implementation of tariff reductions on goods traded with China under a trade pact between the mainland and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations following a favorable opinion from the justice department.

Sources from the Cabinet-level Committee on Tariffs and Related Matters said the Department of Justice issued an opinion dated Aug. 9 saying that the Asean-China Early Harvest Program was an executive agreement rather than a bilateral pact.

This means the agreement does not need ratification from the Senate before its provisions could be implemented.

Sources said the Department of Foreign Affairs, which is leading the country's efforts to have the pact implemented, was of the same position that the EHP could push through without the go-ahead from Congress.

The CTRM has recommended that an executive order be issued on the implementation of the EHP, which Manila and Beijing wanted to start next year.

Last April, the Philippines agreed to enter Early Harvest Program with China through a framework agreement on an Asean-China Comprehensive Economic Cooperation.

The CEC paves the way for the realization of an Asean-China Free Trade Area by 2010.

The EHP gives Asean members an advance low-tariff entry before the free trade agreement takes effect on condition that Asean markets be open to Chinese products.

To be implemented starting Jan. 1, the Philippine-China EHP covers 209 tariff lines that include plant, animal and marine products.

In particular, the EHP lists the following specific products: refined but not chemically modified copra, palm kernel or babassu oil; crude oil and refined oil products; cocoa powder, with and without added sugar or other sweetening matter; and cane, osier, bamboo or similar material.

The Philippines is the last of the 10 Asean members to enter China's EHP. The others have done so as early as 2004 and have cut tariffs on covered products to between 2 percent and 15 percent and agreed to remove such tariffs in 2006.

## Bank lending up 4% to P1.55T in July

LENDING BY COMMERCIAL banks picked up by 4 percent as of end-July to P1.55 trillion from year-ago level due to higher demand from financial institutions, real estate and business services sector.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer-in-Charge Diwa Guinigundo noted that the annual growth in July, however, was slower than the 6.4-percent expansion in bank lending in June.

"The BSP's strong commitment to help banks offload their nonperforming assets and clean up their balance sheets, along with the banking industry's sustained efforts to improve overall asset quality, are expected to further boost bank lending," Guinigundo said.

"This would, in turn, promote economic growth as commercial banks channel credit to productive activities," he said.

Loans to community, social and personal services and manufacturing activities also contributed about 1.4 and 1.3 percentage points, respectively, to the annual growth in July. *Doris C. Dumlao*

## ORTIGAS TRADITION

## *Going the extra mile for the handicapped*

**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

**CORPORATE CITIZEN**

DESPITE GREAT STRIDES MADE IN INtegrating them into the mainstream society, people with disabilities have yet to fully enjoy the ordinary conveniences that "normal" people often take for granted.

Take shopping or going to the movies.

Most of the shopping centers and movie houses in Metro Manila, especially in the provinces, do not have special ramps, staircases or elevators to allow people on wheelchairs to shop or watch a movie on their own.

Not the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan.

Rex Drilon II, chief operating officer of Greenhills Shopping Center's owner Ortigas and Co., told the INQUIRER in an interview that helping people with disabilities was a tradition in the Ortigas family, and was being expressed in the special ramps installed all over the popular shopping center.

Drilon said the Greenhills Theater, likewise, has a ramp for the disabled and they have their own bathrooms.

People on wheelchairs can move around the main shopping centers by hitching their wheelchairs on staircases that will bring them up to the next floor.

### Forgotten sector

"We have always been committed to the disabled because we believe that it is a forgotten sector," Drilon said. "That's why we try to be the most friendly shopping center for persons with disabilities."

Come the busy Christmas season, when shopping at the Greenhills Shopping Center becomes frenzied and frantic, Ortigas and Co. reserves precious *tiangge* space for these people.

The company provides approximately P600,000 worth of free stalls a year to the National Council for the Welfare of the Disabled Persons.

"Through this, we encourage people with disabilities, such as the deaf, mute and people on wheelchairs, to become entrepreneurs," Drilon said.

One of the longtime beneficiaries of this project is Tahanang Walang Hagdan, which sells various products painstakingly done by hand by the disabled Filipinos under its wings.

Other beneficiaries are the Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Inc., Philippine Tuberculosis Society and the Training the Trainors for the Disabled program.

TAHANANG Walang Hagdan is one of the major beneficiaries of the Ortigas program. LYN RILLON

These organizations get to take home all of their sales as Ortigas and Co. gives them the *tiangge* space for free.

Helping the disabled become economically independent is just one of the causes that the Ortigas group is espousing through the Ortigas Foundation Inc.

### History, culture

Another major endeavor concerns history, culture and the arts.

Ortigas and Co. maintains one of the biggest collections of Filipiniana titles, photographs, maps, videos and documents that refer to all aspects of the history and development of the Philippines as a nation.

The 668.33-square-meter library at the Ortigas main office has 9,237 books, of which 1,917 are classified as rare. The oldest book is a Spanish book published in 1698.

The library also houses government documents, such as the annual reports of the Philippine Commission, and periodicals such as the Bulletin of the American Historical Collection.

The company has likewise started a fund to publish a book that will showcase Philippine history from a Filipino perspective, and has started on the documentation of Philippine churches. The last ties well with another project to construct 20 10-foot shrines from Edsa Shrine to Antipolo to guide pilgrims trekking to pay homage to the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in Antipolo, Rizal.

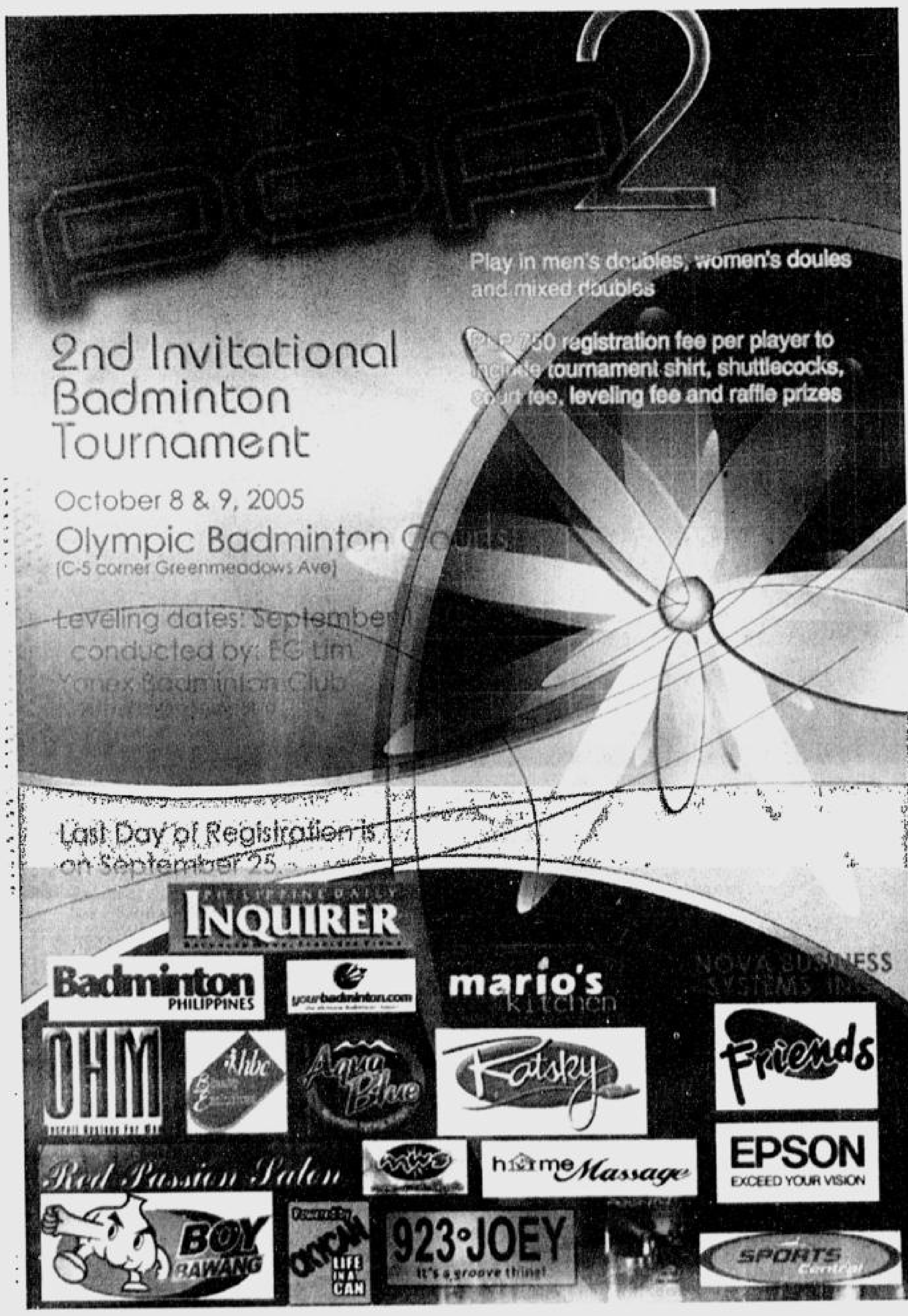
### Triple bottom line

Ortigas and Co. has already completed the construction of a Catholic chapel and a Muslim prayer room, the first of its kind in the city, in gratitude to the Muslim traders who made the shopping center their home.

"We believe that we have a responsibility to our shareholders, and that includes shareholders, employees, management, consumers and community," Drilon said.

He added that the company was part of an increasing group of local companies that believed in the triple bottom line.

That means the company must not only be concerned with its profit and loss statement, but also its social and economic impact.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## Ayala taps peso loans worth P4B to pay dollar obligations

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

AYALA CORP. SAID IT WAS SECURING P4.2 billion in loans from a consortium of four local banks to prepay maturing debts next year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ayala Corp. said it had recently signed the loan agreement with BDO Capital Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., Insular Investment and Trust Corp. and China Banking Corp.

The loan will be used to prepay the company's dollar-denominated debts, which are falling due in 2006, in line with its debt refinancing program.

Ayala has $89 million in debts maturing this year and $112 million falling due next year.

Renato Marzan, managing director at Ayala, said the new loan would mature in seven years and would have a fixed interest rate of 10.375 percent a year.

Ayala will have the option to redeem or buy back the loan beginning the fourth year anniversary of the issue.

The new borrowing will increase the share of its peso debt in its total borrowings to 60 percent peso debt from 42 percent, while dollar-denominated debt will go down to 40 percent from 58 percent.

Ramon Opulencia, Ayala treasurer, said the company had about $200 million to address the requirements of maturing loans up to next year.

## Gov't trains guns on self-employed

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS LOOKing at collecting presumptive taxes from self-employed individuals and professionals not paying their right taxes.

Under the concept of presumptive taxation, the government would set a minimum income that a taxpayer can declare. This will be the basis for the computation of tax liabilities.

The presumed minimum income would depend on the average income in the industry where the taxpayer belongs.

According to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, self-employed individuals are not forced to pay proper taxes because they have the convenience of declaring their own income instead of having an employer withhold their taxes.

Compared to salaried individuals, the DOF said self-employed individuals, like doctors and lawyers, remit significantly less taxes.

In 2004, salaried individuals paid income taxes equivalent to 10.25 percent of their income, while self-employed and professionals paid an equivalent of only 1.25 percent of their income.

"Presumptive taxation could be the best way to address this problem," Teves said.

Teves, who assumed the top finance post last July, said the adoption of the presumptive taxation method of collecting revenues was also being pushed by employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the DOF's attached agency.

## Cocktales

From page B3

except between Dec. 8 and 31, when the balikbayan fill up every available airline seat for the annual Yuletide homecoming.

Seats are limited. And Northwest has just filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

### Money-go-round

- THE OUTGOING president of BBDO Guerrero Ortega ad agency, Susan Dimacali, will not be joining ABS-CBN when she leaves the advertising firm after a three-year stint. Reason for departure: Combustible chemistry with the hotshot creative chair, David Guerrero.

An ABS-CBN source said talks with Dimacali never went past the exploratory stage.

- FORMER GMA chief of staff, political troubleshooter Wilfrido Villarama, has been appointed board member of Clark Development Corp., vice Narzalina Lim.
- CONTRARY to Manila Polo Club speculations, club president Ray Dempsey said the present board is not undertaking any audit of the past administration's expenditures and contracts.

### Heard through the grapevine

TAIPAN Alfonso Yuchengco Jr. is seeking a minority partner for his Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

*(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)*

AN AERIAL view of Clark economic zone

# Gov't condones back taxes of ecozone firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO condone the back taxes incurred by locators in special economic zones under the Bases Conversion Development Act when the Supreme Court revoked the tax perks early this year.

Adversely affected by the SC ruling were the Clark Development Corp., which administers the Clark economic zone in Angeles, Pampanga, and John Hay Management Corp., which runs the John Hay economic zone in Baguio City. Both were created under the BCDA charter or Republic Act 7227.

Poro Point Development Corp. was included by the Department of Finance in its position paper because it was also under the BCDA's jurisdiction.

In a letter to the chair of the Senate committee on government and public estates, Sen. Richard Gordon, dated Sept. 14, the Department of Finance said the government could waive the liabilities incurred by these locators due to the ruling, but only from the time they set up shops in these economic zones until the effectivity of the Supreme Court order.

The Supreme Court ruled that there was no basis in the granting of tax incentives to the locators in these economic zones. Those located in Clark lost the privilege starting July 29 and in John Hay, last March 29.

The DOF said it would no longer collect the taxes retroactively. Its position paper was drafted in consultation with the BCDA.

In lieu of all national and local taxes, the locators in these economic zones were paying a preferential tax rate of 5 percent on gross income.

The tax liabilities incurred thus referred to the difference between the 5 percent gross income tax and the regular national and local taxes.

However, the DOF said the waiver should not cover the tax duties on articles, raw materials, capital goods, equipment and consumer items removed from the special economic zones and brought into customs territory.

## GOINGS-ON

### AUB cash card

ASIA UNITED Bank has launched the AUB Preferred Cash, a cash card facility intended to make the opening of employee payroll accounts faster and uncomplicated.

The facility is readily available to employees for free. They just need to fill up the cash card application form and submit it to the bank in order to activate the cash card.

The AUB Preferred Cash is also available to beneficiaries of OFW remitters and is expected to make overseas remittances cheaper and faster compared to the traditional door-to-door remittance delivery.

To encourage remittance beneficiaries to use the facility, the remittance cash card will not only be given for free, but it will also be pre-loaded with P50 card value.

### Tax conference

INTERNATIONAL TAXATION experts join Philippine business and government leaders in addressing the various issues and concerns of Asia-Pacific tax managers as they gather in Manila for the Asia-Oceania Tax Consultants Association meeting on Nov. 9-12.

Hosted by the Tax Management Association of the Philippines (TMAP), the conference will have as speakers the following: Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who will speak on "Managing a Nation's Fiscal Environment: The Philippine Experience"; Philip Morris Manufacturing managing director Chris Nelson, "Competing and Succeeding in the Philippine Fiscal Environment"; Asian Institute of Management president Roberto de Ocampo, "Asia Pacific Economic Outlook," and Price Waterhouse Coopers partner Suthad Setboonsarng, "Update on the Free Trade Agreements in Asia."

### NGO bags award

THE LAURA Vicuña Foundation Inc. of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco), a non-profit organization involved in addressing the problems of street children and other indigent youths, was named the country winner in the 2005 Asia Pacific NGO Awards.

Organized by Resource Alliance and Citigroup Asia Pacific and funded by the Citigroup Foundation, the competition focuses on professional management and innovation in local resource mobilization.

At the regional finals, Laura Vicuña Foundation Inc. will compete with country winners from six other countries for the title of 2005 Asia Pacific NGO of the Year.

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| Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts | Current Week September 13, 2005 | Last Week September 06, 2005 |
|---|---|---|
| Bond Fund - Peso | 1.26834 | 1.27160 |
| Managed Fund - Peso | 1.36295 | 1.36484 |
| Growth Fund - Peso | 1.00206 | 0.99818 |
| Bond Fund - US Dollar | 1.1429 | 1.1354 |

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE UNIT PRICES (in Php)

| Investment Funds of Wealth Builder | September 12,2005 | September 5,2005 |
|---|---|---|
| Fixed Income Fund | 1.048851 | 1.049383 |
| Balanced Fund | 1.021272 | 1.031500 |
| Equity Fund | 0.957605 | 0.990442 |

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The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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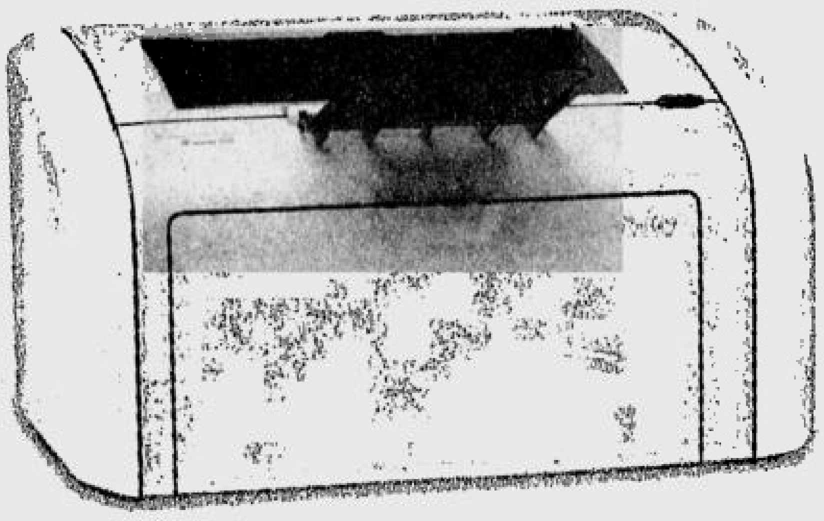

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Per DTI-NCR PERMIT No. 4573 Series of 2005

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More Jobs on Section M

# DOE OKs oil exploration deal with Kuwait, Japan firms

**By Abigail L. Ho**

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HAS approved a farm-in agreement between Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd. (Japex) and Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co. for oil and gas exploration near the Tanon Strait in Central Visayas.

Early this year, Japex acquired Service Contract 46 from the DOE and, with it, the right to explore for oil and gas resources in the area.

With the current agreement, Kuwait Petroleum will acquire 35-percent stake in the block, while Japex holds on to the remaining 65 percent.

In a statement yesterday, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that the entry of Kuwait Petroleum in the local exploration scene is a welcome development since the country is stepping up efforts to harness its indigenous energy resources.

Kuwait Petroleum is involved in the exploration and development of small oil and gas reserves in foreign countries. Its entry into the Philippine exploration market is part of its worldwide operational expansion. It currently has operations in South Africa, Indonesia and Tunisia.

- According to the company's website, it aims to increase production capacity to 100,000 barrels per day of oil equivalent by 2010 from its present production capacity of around 35,000 barrels per day.

In early May, Kuwait Petroleum conducted its initial surveys of the exploration area. Data processing and evaluation are now being conducted to determine the project's viability and potential yield.

If oil and gas reserves in the area are proven to be of commercial value after the seven-year exploration period, Japex and Kuwait Petroleum will be given another 25 years for production.

Japex has extensive international experience in oil and gas exploration. The company in the '90s started production in the Daleel field in Oman, ABS field in North Sumatra and Lufeng 13-1 field in the South China Sea.

When the Japanese received Service Contract 46 from the DOE in February, they gave their commitment to invest around $12.7 million in its seven-year exploration program.

In March 1995, Japex also took part in the establishment of Sakhalin Oil and Gas Development Co. Ltd., the Japanese consortium for the Sakhalin-1 project in Russia.

**THAT TIME OF THE YEAR** Skulls and other frightful wares appear to jump out of shelves in this secondhand shop in Baguio City. The shop is drawing crowds because of its mix of bargain items like toys and gadgets for Halloween and Christmas. The city's American legacy makes the celebration of Halloween a highly anticipated commercial event.

EV ESPIRITU

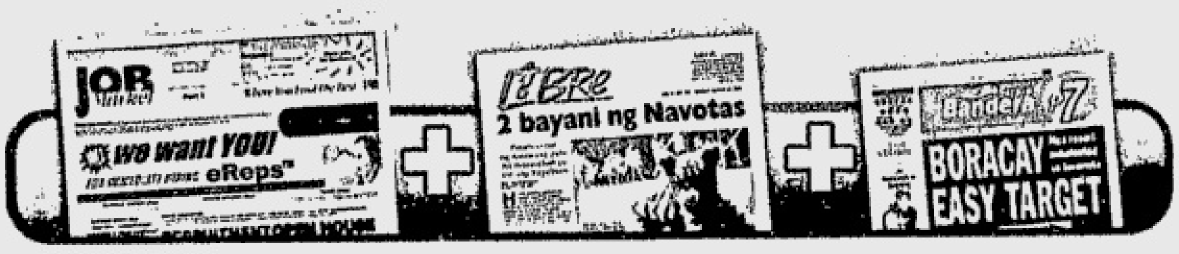
## Arc Worldwide bags int'l plum

ARC WORLDWIDE PHILIPPINES, THE marketing services agency aligned with Leo Burnett Worldwide, won third place in the direct mail standard (business) category for its "cornflakes" package for INQUIRER's Libre in the 27th John Caples International Awards held recently in New York City.

Chosen as the third best among direct marketing entries from 44 countries, the "cornflakes" package helped Libre reach more advertisers than expected.

Libre is a daily newspaper of the Philippine Daily Inquirer's distributed for free in Metro Rail Transit and Light Rail Transit stations. Its high circulation effectively allows Libre to reach the masses more than other downscale dailies.

Libre publishers partnered with Arc Worldwide to come up with the "cornflakes" direct mail package with the advertising theme "Brain Food first thing in the morning."



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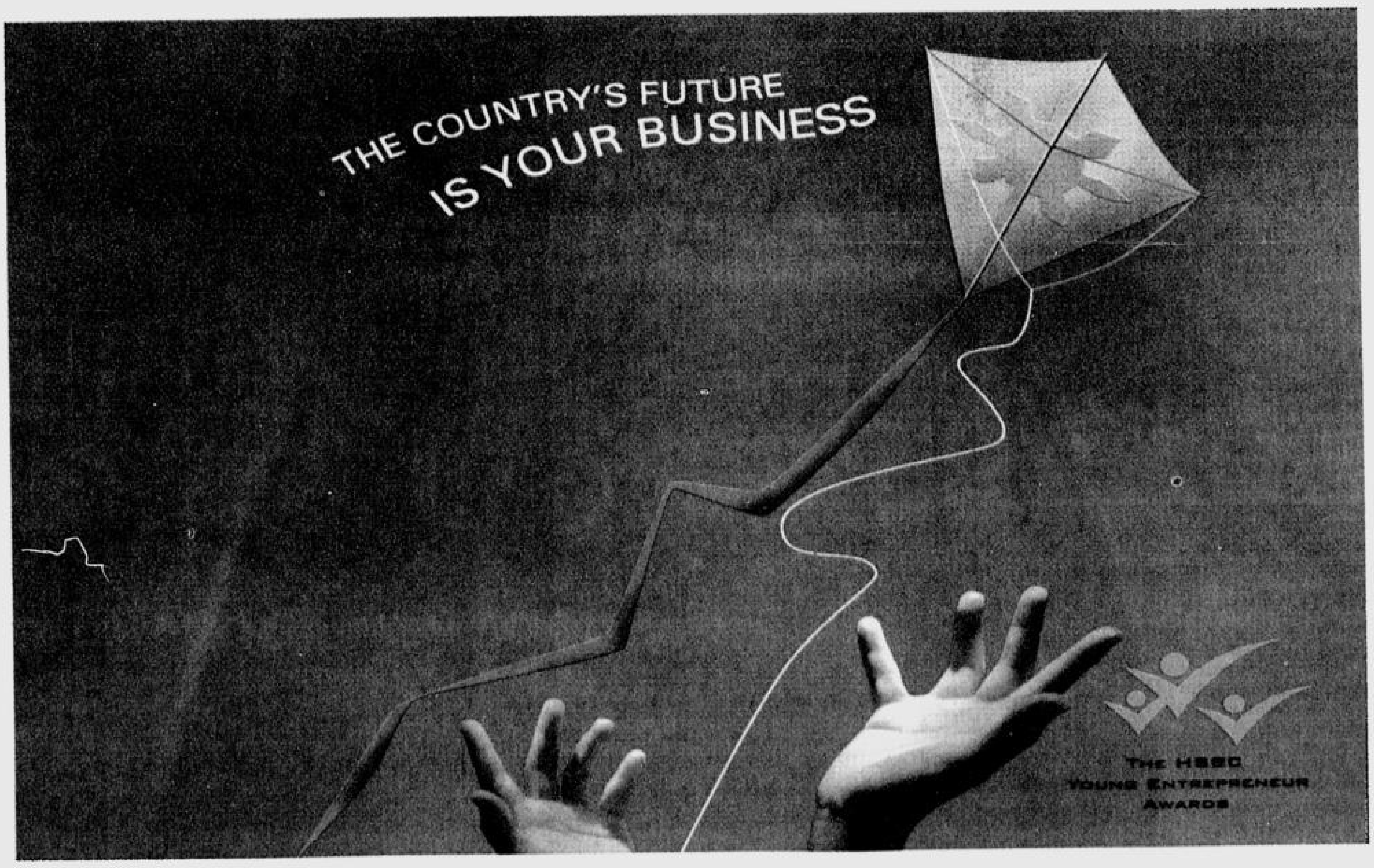

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# Northwest files for bankruptcy

ATLANTA—DELTA AIR LINES INC. and Northwest Airlines Corp., hobbled by soaring fuel costs and heavy debt and pension obligations, have filed for bankruptcy protection, becoming the third and fourth major US carriers to do so since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Wednesday's dual filings in US Bankruptcy Court in New York brought into focus the magnitude of the plight of the big US airlines, which have lost more than $30 billion (euro24.4 billion) in four years even as they slashed thousands of jobs and raised questions about the viability of their employee pension plans.

A spike in fuel prices after Hurricane Katrina was the final blow for both carriers. By joining the parents of United Airlines and US Airways in bankruptcy, the four major carriers represent more than 40 percent of all available seat miles in the United States, according to analysts.

"We are reading the first page in a thriller that will end either in resurrection or the death and burial of an entire industry as we know it today," said William Rochelle, an airline bankruptcy lawyer in New York.

Delta said it plans to reduce its fleet size and Chief Executive Gerald Grinstein said it was likely more job cuts will be needed on top of the 24,000 job cuts the Atlanta-based carrier has announced since 2001.

Northwest CEO Doug Steenland said his Eagan, Minnesota-based airline also would shrink in bankruptcy, with fewer flights and layoffs expected before the end of the year.

Company officials said the 26-day strike by unionized mechanics was not a factor in the decision to seek bankruptcy court protection.

Delta's late afternoon bankruptcy filing included its low-fare subsidiary Song, feeder carrier Comair and 16 other affiliates.

Delta listed its total debt at $28.3 billion (euro23 billion) and assets at $21.6 billion (euro17.5 billion). The asset figure makes Delta's bankruptcy the ninth-largest in US history, according to bankruptcy tracker New Generation Research Inc. Northwest listed assets of $14.35 billion (euro11.65 billion). *AP*

# Crude oil above $65

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES EXtended gains above $65 a barrel on Thursday, drawing strength from concerns of a winter fuel squeeze in the world's biggest consumer after a drop in US crude and distillate inventories.

Worries over heating fuel supplies took the spotlight after rising weekly gasoline stocks and falling demand helped ease some anxiety over motor fuel stocks more than two weeks after Hurricane Katrina ripped into the US Gulf Coast.

US light crude was trading up 17 cents to $65.26 a barrel yesterday, still about $1.00 below values just before Katrina hit. London Brent crude gained 10 cents to $63.47.

Some traders fear strained refiners may struggle to refill depleted gasoline tanks while maintaining stocks of the winter fuel, although stockpiles of heating oil—a kind of distillate—are still more than 10 percent higher than a year ago.

"The market was disappointed about the data but I think it's way too early to get uptight about stocks," said David Thurtell, commodity strategist at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

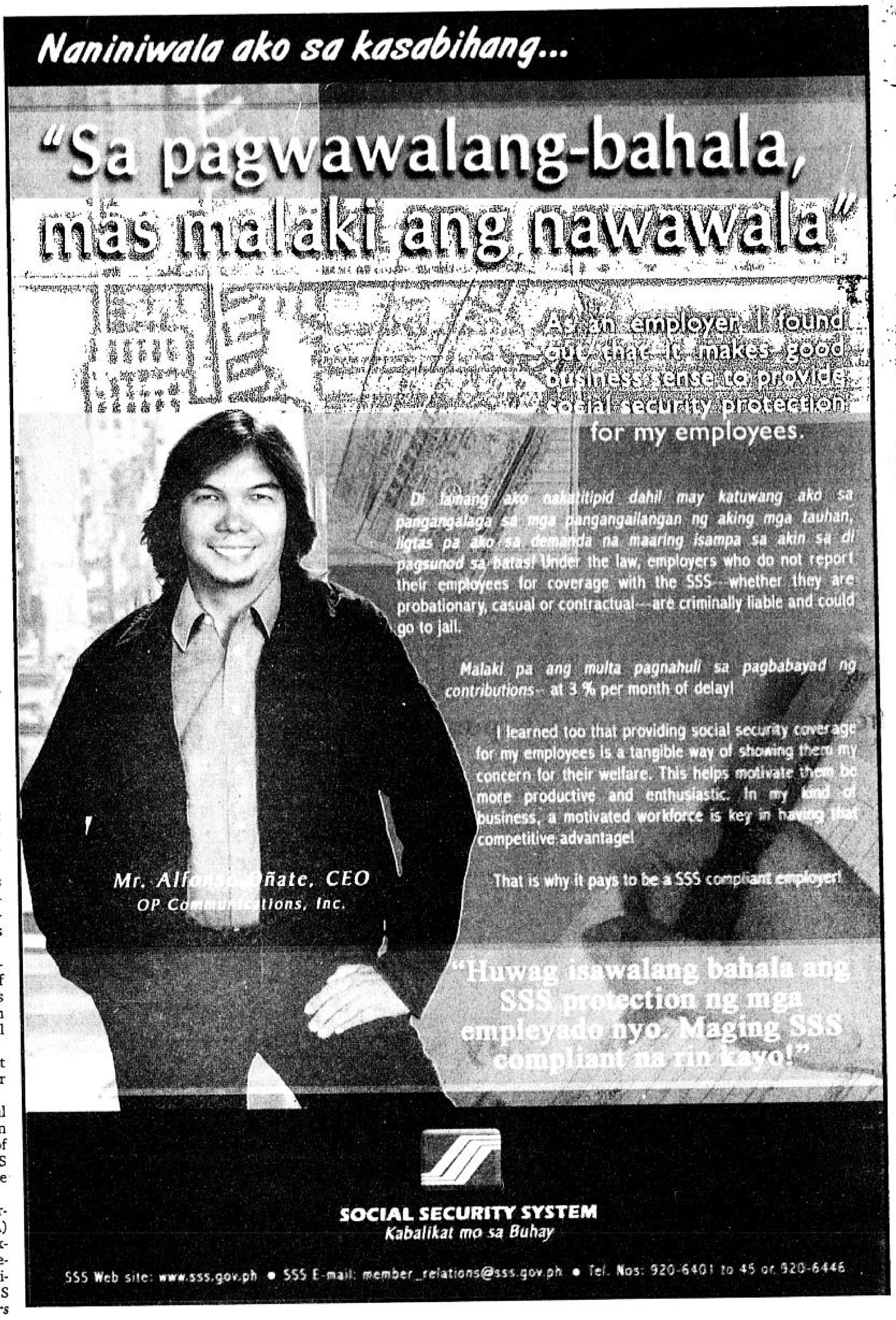
Three of the four refineries still shut down by Hurricane Katrina could remain out of commission for months, officials have said.

The continuing loss of US natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico is also fueling gains, as some homes and industries can use it interchangeably with fuel or heating oil.

Gas prices climbed 3.7 percent on Wednesday to $11.166 per mmBtu.

Some 35 percent of normal natural gas output is still shut in the Gulf, while 56 percent of crude production is idle, the US Minerals Management Service said on Wednesday.

Later on Thursday the International Energy Agency (IEA) meets to consider whether to extend the 60 million-barrel release of emergency reserves, initiated on Sept. 9 to ease US shortages. *Reuters*



*Naniniwala ako sa kasabihang...*

"Sa pagwawalang-bahala, mas malaki ang nawawala"

As an employer I found out that it makes good business sense to provide social security protection for my employees.

*Di lamang ako nakatitipid dahil may katuwang ako sa pangangalaga sa mga pangangailangan ng aking mga tauhan, ligtas pa ako sa demanda na maaring isampa sa akin sa di pagsunod sa batas!* Under the law, employers who do not report their employees for coverage with the SSS---whether they are probationary, casual or contractual---are criminally liable and could go to jail.

*Malaki pa ang multa pagnahuli sa pagbabayad ng contributions*-- at 3 % per month of delay!

I learned too that providing social security coverage for my employees is a tangible way of showing them my concern for their welfare. This helps motivate them be more productive and enthusiastic. In my kind of business, a motivated workforce is key in having that competitive advantage!

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*Mr. Alfonso Oñate, CEO*
*OP Communications, Inc.*

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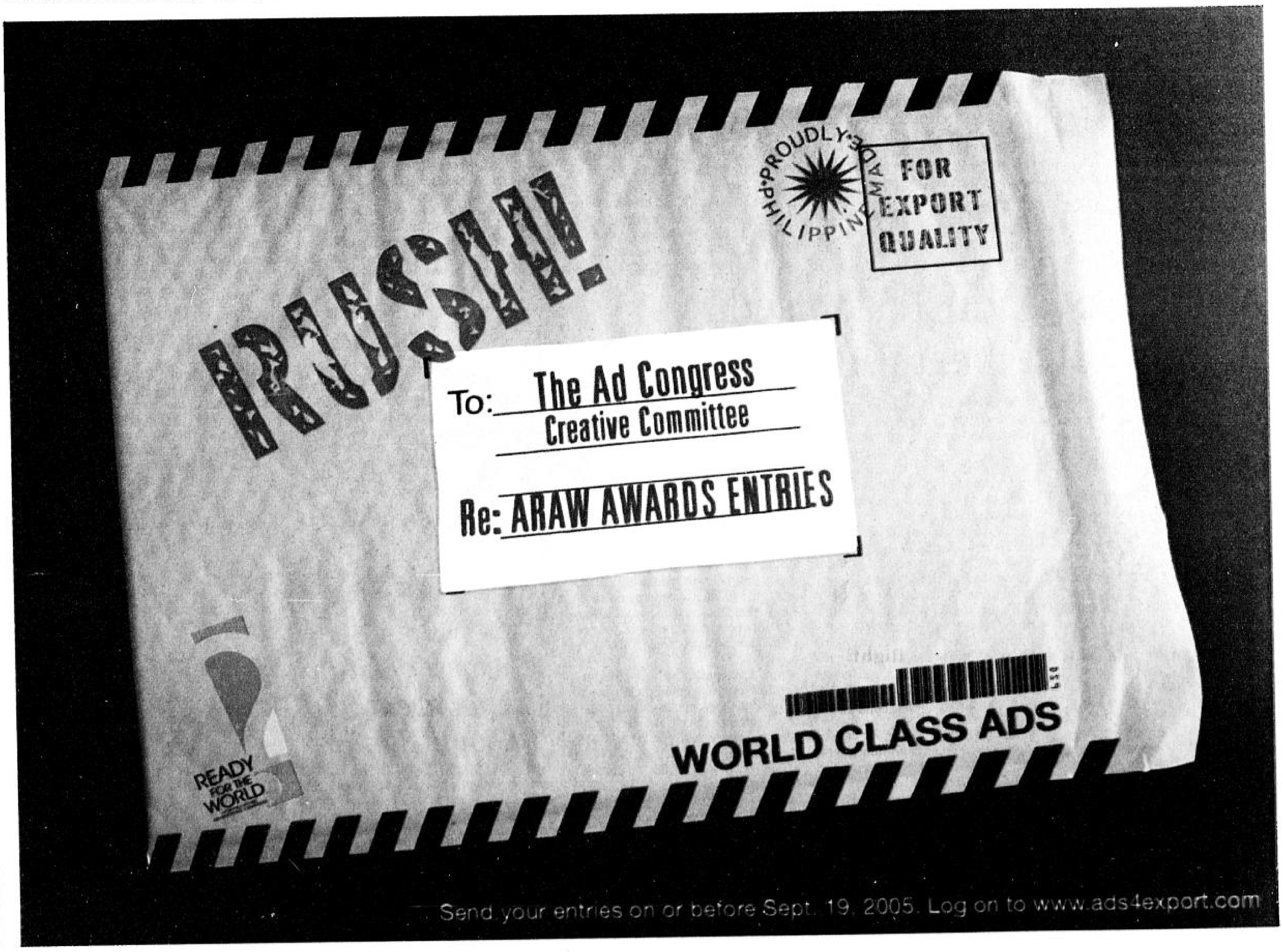

Send your entries on or before Sept. 19, 2005. Log on to www.ads4export.com

# People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
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*Editor* **Aries Espinosa**

## Anti-money laundering half-day forum Sep. 21

SAS, THE LEADER IN BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE, will hold a half-day forum on anti-money laundering solutions on Sep. 21, 8 a.m. at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. Dubbed "Intelligence vs Fraud: Anti-Money Laundering Solutions from SAS", the seminar features Rowan Bosworth-Davies, director for Money Laundering and Fraud Solutions of SAS International.

Bosworth-Davies is widely recognized as a leading international expert in the field of providing education and consulting services in the field of fraud prevention and anti-money laundering awareness programs, with over 25 years of practical and theoretical experience in the investigation and prosecution of fraud and white-collar crime. As legal consultant and a former Fraud Squad detective at New Scotland Yard, he ran the investigations division of one of United Kingdom's financial Self Regulating Organizations for two years. He is also credited with redesigning the entire financial crime training program for the UK National Criminal Intelligence Service, and has engaged in a wide variety of training roles for different banking and anti-crime organizations in the United Kingdom.

Bosworth-Davies will be in town to talk about trends in financial crime and money laundering and how organizations can improve their efficiency in detecting and preventing suspicious activity. The seminar, part of SAS Philippines' Executive Business Forum Series, will benefit Amla-covered institutions as well as government organizations involved in AML.

For inquiries on SAS' forum on anti-money laundering solutions, call SAS Philippines at 633-6916.

PETRON
XTRA

**PETRON AVAILS ITSELF OF EPCIB DEPOSIT SERVICE**

Petron Corp, the country's leading oil company, tapped Equitable PCI Bank to answer its needs in distributing dividends to its stockholders. Petron inked a direct deposit program agreement with Equitable PCI Bank, availing itself of the bank's latest deposit service dubbed FAST eTransfer. The program aims to facilitate a safe, reliable, convenient and economical way of distributing dividends to Petron's 194,633 stockholders nationwide. Equitable PCI Bank participated in the Petron Annual Stockholders' Meeting in promotion of the FAST eTransfer facility. The EPCIB team was composed of (from left) Sunday Canillas, Mark Marquez, Joey Sison, Lot Canillas, Marissa Castro, Ida Michelle Nuestra, Anne Opulencia, Steve Tychuaco, and Jennifer Valenzuela.

## Ang Batang Pinoy ay Jollibee Kid Year 3 now nationwide

MORE THAN FULFILLING A corporate commitment, food chain giant Jollibee Foods Corp makes a bold leap into social responsibility by establishing the "Ang Batang Pinoy ay Jollibee Kid" values education program as its legacy for the Filipino.

In ceremonies marking its renewal of commitment to the program and the unveiling of its nationwide scope at the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Manila, Jollibee together with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Mary Lindbert International, has expanded its values education program by going nationwide as the project enters its third year. It falls under the adopt-a-school project of the DepEd.

"Ang Batang Pinoy ay Jollibee Kid is a realization of our corporate commitment to heritage and nation building. Time was when the Filipino is synonymous to being honest, hardworking, polite, humble and hospitable. The program enables us to reintegrate values in the mindset of children, parents and educators-this plus good education make a holistic individual who is ready for global competitiveness," said Inez Reyes, Jollibee vice president for marketing.

Jollibee, DepEd and Mary Lindbert began what is basically a values reorientation program for grade-schoolers and integrated this into the basic elementary school curriculum. Eight core values provide the theme of the workbooks freely given to the students enrolled in the participating schools.

Written in the vernacular, the workbooks focus on different positive values: matapat, masaya, matulungin, magalang, matipid, mapaglingkod, masipag at matatag na kalooban. The coloring and activity books have also become a source of quality bonding time between the parent and the child.

DepEd initially began implementation of the program in only 28 private and public in the National Capital Region (NCR). On its second year the number of schools doubled still in the NCR. This time they are in 85 schools all over the country.

In June this year, then DepEd Secretary Florencio Abad issued a memorandum order that beginning in school year 2005-2006 Character Education will be included as part of the Makabayan subject in public elementary schools.

In the same order, it was stressed that "Character Education will strengthen the values integrated and learned in other areas."

Reyes also said that aside from instilling these values, Jollibee is proud that it has contributed to the well-being of these children from whose ranks the country's future leaders will come from.

Deped OIC Fe Hidalgo was the keynote speaker of the event. DepEd Regional Directors graced the affair and took part of the symbolical unveiling of the nationwide scope of the "Ang Batang Pinoy ay Jollibee Kid Year 3."

**BLIMS INAUGURATES LIFESTYLE STORE AT ORTIGAS HOME DEPOT**

Blims Fine Furniture, the country's pioneering lifestyle and furniture trendsetter, formally inaugurated its latest branch at the Ortigas Home Depot, the flagship of the sprawling Ortigas Town Center. The store opening was graced by Malang, one of the country's most respected visual artists, together with the Saturday Group. The opening was highlighted by a nude painting session by the members of the Saturday Group as well as the formal launch of lifestyle vignettes styled by designers from the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID) led by Belen Morey, a pillar in interior design. The day was also marked by the official introduction of the Blims Interior Design Clinic, which provides professional interior design consultancy by members of the PIID. Located at the corner of Julia Vargas and Meralco avenues, Blims Fine Furniture shares its more than 2,000 sqm Lifestyle Center with Automatic Centre, which also offers a complete range of appliances and electronic items right in the heart of the sprawling Ortigas Town Center. Blims Fine Furniture executive vice-president Carrie Lim (2nd from left) welcomed the guests of honor, which include (from left) Napoleon Co, chair, Ortigas Home Depot; Mauro Malang Santos; Belen Morey, and Gerry Contreras, president, PIID.

## Successful launch of Hans Christian Andersen book translation

"ANG KAIBIGAN SA PAGLALAKBAY," a translation from the original Danish by Gloria Aguinaldo Soerensen, a Filipino expatriate based in Denmark of one of Hans Christian Andersen's stories titled "Rejsekammeraten", was successfully launched at the plush Grand Ballroom of the Bellevue Manila recently.

A copy of the book will be part of a permanent exhibit in the Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Odense, Denmark together with a copy of Dr. Jose Rizal's "Ang Punong Pino" both stories of the famous Danish writer.

The book launch is part of the worldwide bicentenary celebration of the famous Danish author of well-loved children tales that impart the universal message of faith, love and goodness. The book was developed and published by Adarna House and illustrated by Wilford Almoro, a young, talented Filipino artist.

The event was attended by Consul General lawyer Ricardo J. Romulo; Honorary Consul Erik Moeller Nielsen of the Royal Danish Consulate General in Manila; Patrick Chan, GM of The Bellevue Manila; Ryan Chan, marketing manager Bellevue Manila; and Roberto Habaluyas, VP of Vivere Suites.

Former Vice Mayor Jojay Alcaraz received the 50 copies of book donated by Jessica Yu for Batang Munti Foundation while DepEd Assistant Secretary Teodoro Catindig accepted the 500 copies of book donation for distribution to public schools.

Muntinlupa DepEd Head Fe Faz and Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, represented by Jaime Ventura, acknowledged receipt of 200 copies of book for Muntinlupa as a personal donation of Patrick Chan, Ani Almario of Adarna House, Wilford Almoro the book illustrator. Also present during the launch were Madonna del Mundo and Des Lleno of Museo Pambata ng Maynila, Jose Tan Yu, Adonis Yap, VP of Planters Bank, Edwin Jeremillo, family and friends of the translator.

The book launch and book donation were sponsored by The Harbour Centre, Vivere Suites, Bellevue Manila, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Isabela Rep. Rod Albano and Jose Tan Yu.

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**GLOBEQUEST, MBC SIGN DEAL**

GlobeQUEST, the corporate business group of Innove Communications, and the Makati Business Club (MBC) recently signed a contract for Internet and web-hosting requirements. Under the agreement, GlobeQUEST will provide MBC with its Business Class DSL Internet connection as well as host four MBC websites, namely: www.mbc.com.ph, www.philippinebusiness.com.ph, www.tag.org.ph, and www.ncdb.com.ph. MBC actively fosters and promotes the role of the private sector in nation building. Thus, the group recognizes the importance of partnering with telecom companies such as Innove to help them reach a wider audience for their advocacy efforts. Shown are (from left): Jesus C. Romero, GlobeQUEST head; Gil B. Genio, Innove CEO; Guillermo M. Luz, executive director, MBC; and Marc Opulencia, deputy director, MBC.

## Aggie, food industry poised to help gov't 'beat the odds'

THE COUNTRY'S AGRIBUSINESS and food industry is out to help the government "beat the odds" through a determined effort to post steady growth in the next six months and the years ahead.

"Beat the Odds" is the Arroyo administration's battle cry for its focused governance, and serves as an acronym for its 10-point agenda for the next six years.

"B" stands for Balanced budget, "E" for Education for all, "A" for Automated elections, "T" for Transport and digital infrastructure to connect the country, "T" for Termination of conflicts with the MILF and the NPA, "H" for Healing the wounds of Edsa, "E" for Electricity and water for all barangays, "O" for Opportunities for 10 million jobs, "D" for Decongesting Metro Manila, and "DS" for Developing Clark and Subic.

Six of the 10-point agenda directly concern the agribusiness and food industry. A "balanced budget" can increase government outlay for agricultural development, "education for all" can develop a world-class working class industry-wide and countrywide, "transport and digital infrastructure throughout the archipelago" can substantially reduce logistical costs in the distribution of agribusiness products, while "electricity and water for all barangays" can boost productivity at the farm level. On the other hand, "opportunities for 10 million jobs" and "decongesting Metro Manila" are among the benefits that can result from agricultural modernization and the attainment of efficiency by every member of the supply chain.

The pursuit of that goal is being bannered by Agrilink/Foodlink 2005, which will be staged at the World Trade Center Manila from Oct. 6 to 8.

Constituting the country's biggest and most prestigious annual international trade show on agriculture and food, Agrilink and Foodlink are being organized by the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development (FRLD) in cooperation with more than 20 industry associations nationwide.

Their collective efforts at helping the government "beat the odds" will be highlighted by the huge gathering of the world's industry players and agribusiness and food products, services, systems, and technologies at Agrilink/Foodlink 2005, according to FRLD president Antonio V. Roces.

"Agrilink/Foodlink 2005 will thus enable all the members of the local agriculture and food industry-from big business to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and all the way down to micro-enterprises-to avail themselves of the best technologies, best practices, and best possible partners for their operations," Roces said.

Inquiries and reservations can be made with FRLD at 838-4549, 838-4852; fax 838-4573, or e-mail frld@pldtdsl.net, or log on to www.frld.org/agrilink.

"With the support of the Department of Agriculture and the National Agriculture and Fishery Council, the twin events can help every industry player attain the required operating efficiencies for optimum quality, productivity and price-competitiveness along every segment of the supply chain," Roces explained.

This development is also of great import to the attainment of the country's full-year 2005 economic growth target of 5.3 percent, which is heavily dependent on agricultural recovery in the second semester.

Geared for its pursuit, Agrilink/Foodlink 2005 will include technology seminars, products and services exhibition and demonstrations, and business presentations, among many others.

The twin events are likewise expected to generate wholesale and retail sales, booked orders, marketing tie-ups, joint ventures, and many other business opportunities.

## *QC Science High homecoming*

THE QUEZON CITY SCIENCE High School Class of 1980 is pleased to host the 2005 General Assembly and Alumni Homecoming on Sep. 17, 5 p.m. at the school campus in Barangay Pag-Asa, Quezon City. The annual event is expected to bring together alumni from the 38 batches that have graduated from the school since its foundation in 1967. This year's affair will also highlight the launching of the Alumni Scholarship Program aimed to financially assist poor but deserving students, alumni, and faculty of the Quezon City Science High School. Tickets for the affair-which include buffet dinner, a souvenir program, and Batch 1980 giveaways-are priced at P350. A cappella group and Aliw awardee Tux makes a special appearance. To find out more, or to RSVP, call Neilie-Ann De Pano-Villanueva at 632-6447. The Quezon City Science High School, founded in 1967, is the regional science high school for the National Capital Region. It has consistently been ranked in the top 10 of the annual NSAT.

## Product FILES

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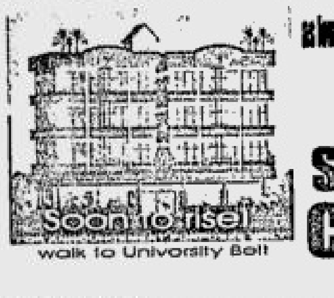

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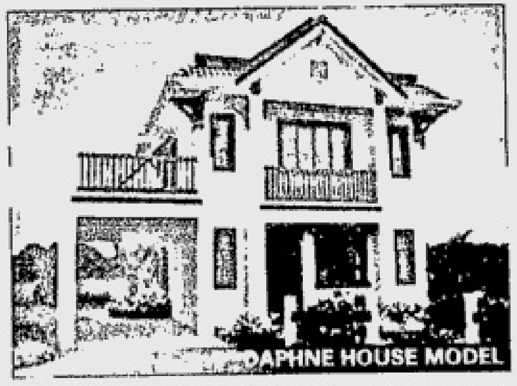

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## INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on September 28, 2005, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 4, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

| CODE REAL ESTATE | LOCATION | DESCRIPTION | MINIMUM SELLING PRICE |
|---|---|---|---|
| METRO MANILA | | | |
| AM-ML-118 | No. 100 Industry Road II corner Reparo Road, Araneta University Village (Now Potrero), Malabon City | 2,380 m² industrial lot (TCT No. M-21827) with bldgs. & imp. | P 25,000,000.00 |
| BAGUIO | | | |
| AM-ML-119 | Bo. Lucban (Now Ambiong), Baguio City | 18,517 m², adjoining 2 parcels of interior agricultural lots (TCT Nos. T-79824 & T-79823) | P 27,776,000.00 |
| BATANGAS | | | |
| AM-MC-120 | Bo. Tumaway, Talisay | 16,995 m², adjoining 2 parcels of agro-residential lots (TCT Nos. T-107334 & T-107335) | P 9,901,900.00 |
| AM-JA-121 | Maharlika Highway, Brgy. 1, Sto.Tomas | 7,505 m² industrial/commercial lot (TCT No. T-93491) with 2-storey hospital bldg. | P 40,000,000.00 |
| AM-JA-122 | Along National Road (near Sta. Anastacia Elem. School), San Rafael, Sto. Tomas | 1,165 m² residential-commercial lot (TCT No. T-93491) with 2-storey hospital bldg. | P 3,931,800.00 |
| BULACAN | | | |
| AM-PY-123 | Along Cagayan Valley National Road, Brgy Matimbubong, San Ildefonso | 80,965 m², adjoining 3 parcels of industrial lots (TCT) Nos. T-202018 to T-202020) with bldgs. &imp. | P 79,187,000.00 |
| LGP-1 | Tabang, Plaridel | 1,686 m², adjoining 2 parcels of residential/ industrial lots (TCT No.T-118054) with bldgs. & imp. and machinery & equipment | P 6,264,900.00 |
| AM-MR-124 | Along Camia St., Manzano Subd., Brgy. Ibayao, Marilao | 294 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-351876) | P 967,840.00 |
| CAVITE | | | |
| AM-DE-125 | No. 143 Sampaloc St., Justinville Subdivision, Bo. Panapaan, Bacoor | 180 m² residential lot (TCT No.T-1109645) with bldgs. & imp. | P 1,294,600.00 |
| LAGUNA | | | |
| AM-MR-126 | Lot 2 Blk. 15 St. Joseph 4, Brgy. Butong, Cabuyao | 80 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-469873) with bldgs. & imp. | P 358,000.00 |
| PANGASINAN | | | |
| | Pinewood Village, Bo Bending, Pozzorubio | 7,963 vacant subdivision lots | |
| AM-JA-127a | Blk. 15 Lots 5-13, 15-29 | 2,230 m² (covered 24 TCTs) | P 2,230,000.00 |
| AM-JA-127b | 16 5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-23, 25, 27-29 | 1,860 m² (covered by 20 TCTs) | P 1,860,000.00 |
| AM-JA-127c | 17 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 1 | 1,427 m² (covered by 12 TCTs) | P 1,427,000.00 |
| AM-JA-127d | 19 3, 5-28 | 2,446 m² (covered by 25 TCTs) | P 2,446,000.00 |
| | | 19 subdivision lots with resd'l. blgs. | |
| AM-JA-127e | Blk. 15 Lot 14 | 90 m² TCT No. 272577 | P 177,500.00 |
| AM-JA-127f | 30 120 m² TCT No. 272593 | P 230,000.00 | |
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| AM-JA-127s | 21 | 100 m² TCT No. 272608 | P 210,200.00 |
| AM-JA-127t | 23 100 m² TCT No. 272637 | P | 210,200.00 |
| AM-JA-127u | 25 | 100 m² TCT No. 272611 | P 210,200.00 |
| AM-JA-127v | 27 | 107 m² TCT No. 272613 | P 217,200.00 |
| AM-JA-127w | 19 4 | 90 m² TCT No. 272619 | P 151,200.00 |
| AM-JA-127x | Bo. Alipangpang, Pozzorubio | 18,230 m², adjoining 2 parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. 272617 & 272615) | P 2,115,900.00 |
| RIZAL | | | |
| AM-DE-128 | Lot 31 Blk. 14, Montano Drive, Palos Verdes Garden Heights Subd., Bo. Seven Hills, Antipolo City | 300 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-301965) | P 735,000.00 |
| SRG-01 | 605 6th St., San Martin Subd. Brgy. Muzon, Angono | 240 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-680746) with bldg. & imp. | P 844,900.00 |
| QUEZON | | | |
| AM-ML-129 | Mamala, Sariaya | 62,108 m² interior lot (TCT No. 392734) with bldgs & imps. | P 17,200,000.00 |
| TARLAC | | | |
| AM-ML-130 | McArthur Highway, Bo. San Rafael, Tarlac City | 4,310 m², adjoining 4 parcels of vacant commercial/ induslal lots (TCT Nos. 381735 to 381738) | P 32,325,000.00 |
| ZAMBOANGA | | | |
| | Country Homes Phase III, Ayala, Zamboanga City | Residential lots with bldg. & imp. | |
| AM-MC-131 | Lot 9 Blk 10 180 m² TCT No. 185,487 | P | 352,000.00 |
| AM-MC-132 | 26 14 162 m² TCT No. 185,488 | P | 316,800.00 |
| CHATTELS | | | |
| AM-ED-133 | Brgy. Kabilang Gulod, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro ferry vessel, twin engine, twin propelled | M/V "Super 85", 85 footer motorized passeger Catamaran type, capable of carrying up to 185 persons, with machinary and navigational equipment | P 8,925,000.00 |
| AM-JA-134 | Brgy. Natividad, Pangil, Laguna | Various machinery and equipment for Alkali-Ion/ Electrolytic Water Treatment | P 9,833,900.00 |
| DAS-003B | De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite | One (1) unit X-ray Machine with Tomography, Siemens, SN 124477, Made in Germany | P 151,900.00 |
| DAS-003C | De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite | One (1) unit Operating Room Light, Dual, AMSCO Challenger | P 112,500.00 |
| DAS-003E | De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite | Two (2) units Ventilator, BEAR 5, SN 3063 & 4001 | P 275,000.00 |
| DAS-003J | De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite | One (1) unit Autoclave Sterilizer, Pelton & Crane, SN A-6-3928 | P 252,500.00 |
| DAS-003K | De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite | Twenty seven (27) units Hospital Beds, Joules/Hilrom type | P 212,600.00 |
| DAS-003N | De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite | One (1) unit Anesthesia Machine, Ohio, SN ABEF00004 | P 171,900.00 |
| DAS-004AB | De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite | One (1) unit reconditioned generating set, Nippon Sharyo, 150 KVA, powered by HINO DK 10T Diesel Engine with Serial No KV47200; Chassis No. 19010289; 3-Phase; 220 V, 394 Amperes, 60 cycles, 1800 rpm, with standard accessories | P 683,100.00 |

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM; (046) 4161389/4161390/850-3637 and 818-9511 loc. 1427 for DAS; (088) 231-7352/826-0289 and 818-9511 local 1466 for SRG; and (052) 480-7068/480-7081 and 818-9511 loc. 1423 for LGP.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - Sept. 16 & 17, 2005)

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## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### CONDO/TWNHSE

### QUEZON CITY

Romarosa Twnhse 60m² nr UP Ateneo P1.9Mneg Call Raul 9392691 09208390586

### VARIED AREAS

10%DP Lipat Agad!
• Pasig Nr Libis / Ortigas P1.5M Up
• Mkti C5 Nr The Fort 1.3M Up
• Airport Nr SM Bicutan 1.3M Up
2-4BR Condo 0917-8169849

### LOT

### QUEZON CITY

446sqm Atherton corner Archer North Fairview Call Roy 913-7270 • 913-7267

GRAND VILLAS Top Row w/view back ATENEO LOTS hse & lots avble 426-5650 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

★KATIPUNAN Ext Real lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m² P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

Rush 300SQM ROOSEVELT PARKWAY 733-77-67/69/73

### SAN JUAN

Nr. Wilson St. 425m² 13M bes. Manhann Rest. 0917-8563378

### OTHER PROVINCIAL

926m² Baguio Quezon Hills cor Naguilian Rd 7500/m² Lyn 640-2145 0921-3884753

### LOT

### CAVITE

LAND SUITABLE FOR SUBD LOC: SILANG CAVITE W/ACCESS FR. AGUINALDO H-WAY, 8KM. FR RONINSONS & SM DASMARINAS RIPE FOR PROJECT DEV'T APPROXIMATELY 70HAS TYRINE CHUA - 2421309

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Poultry on Fenced 1½Has Orchard Along Cemented Bgy. Rd. Off Teresa Rizal 533-9225 OR 0920-9145862

### FACTORY/WHSE

SUITABLE 4 MALL/SCHOOL COMM'L/IND'L WHSE & LOT 10,193m² QC 4563243

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### HOUSE

### MAKATI

4BR HOUSE W GARAGE 6075 PALMA ROCKWELL MKT T-8706706

### CAVITE

MOLINO, Semi Furnshd P6500/ MO 2BR,T&B,GRGE 0920-6337953

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### CONDO/TWNHSE

### MAKATI

SALCEDO / LEGASPI 1-2-3BR P15-90T/mo 8896475 ; 4796

### QUEZON CITY

3BR 3TB + maids nice 24hr secrty Jade Pice Visayas Ave Call Roy 9137270 • 9137267

Comml Unit frnting Quirino hspital JP Rizal Cubao Call Roy 913-7270 • 913-7267

### APARTMENT

### MAKATI

2Bdrm Up/ Dn T8973770 / 1Cr StgH2O / Npnt / Screen / Cmpd

### MANILA

652 M Cristina Samp 09174529165

### PASAY

FURNISHED STUDIO 8872665

### ROOM & BOARD

El Grande Inn 8257524 BF Pque P2001 Tel8275345

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Windsor Inn Maceda St nr 7-11 Dimasalang, Manila 7116679, 7836781(24hrs)

### BEDSPACE

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

MALL SPACE IN PASIG 4 RENT
85 00 SQ. M; G/F, FACING PARKING LOT @ 450.00/m² (neg.)
WE ALREADY HAVE RUSTAN, JOLLIBEE, BINGO MERCEDES, MR. QUICKIE. and 50 OTHER STORES.
FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CALL KALOI OR LUZ @ TEL. 640-41-21, 643-8141

### RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46 LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342 QUEZON CITY 3730239-40 CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500 LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

NEED CASH? as low as 1.2% mo. T-375-6018

### BUSINESS RENTAL

COM'L OFC BLDG 3FLRS COML APT W /BODEGA 524 EDSA CALOOCAN 3612663

MAKATI nr BUENDIA 38-185m² 8903481 ofc hrs

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

COMM'L/OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (58m² - 627m²) 8876003

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
**LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD**

## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
## NO. 2005-030

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF MC NO. 2004-004

**A. BACKGROUND:**

Due to the cancellation of the accreditation of Special Alliance Management, Inc. (SAMI) under Board Resolution No. 4, dated May 4, 2005 , the Board ordered the Insurance Monitoring and Review Committee (IMRC) to conduct an accreditation process for a new Management Group, Lead Insurance and Insurance Consortia to undertake the passenger personal insurance for public land transport services in order to ensure the objectives of the Passenger Personal Accident Insurance Program (PPAIP) in the establishment of a "Two-Group, Odd-Even System"

On May 4, 2005, the accreditation of the second management group of the PPAIP was cancelled due to various violations of Memorandum Circular No. 2004-004.

The IMRC set policies and guidelines for the accreditation process, and thereafter published in a newspaper of general circulation the invitation to bid for the accreditation of the second management group, which was participated by six (6) proponents.

On the scheduled date for the submission of the sealed proposals, which was set on July 4, 2005, the IMRC received only two (2) proposals among the six (6) proponents.

Based on the criteria and point system adopted, the IMRC came up with a report dated July 8, 2005, wherein it unanimously agreed and recommended to the Board, that the proposal submitted by UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT ACCIDENT SOLUTIONS, INC. (UNITRANS) is the most beneficial and advantageous proposal for the PPAIP. Thus, Board Resolution No. 6, dated September 12, 2005, Re: ACCREDITATION OF NEW MANAGEMENT GROUP, was issued, approving the recommendation of the IMRC, and accrediting UNITRANS as the new management group that will form part of the "Two Management Group: Odd- Even System" together with PASSENGER ACCIDENT MANAGERS, INC. (PAMI).

The Board on one hand, the Commissioner of the Insurance Commission (IC) and the accredited management groups on the other, all agreed to implement the following:

1) Philippine Accident Managers, Inc. (PAMI) and Universal Transport Accident Solutions, Inc. (UNITRANS) are the two (2) Insurance Management Groups accredited by the Board, subject to accreditation/registration/license by the Insurance Commission (IC), as provided under Section 299 of the Insurance Code of the Philippines.

2) The Insurance Commission shall invite all insurance companies to participate in the PPAIP and shall be responsible in determining the actual composition and equal distribution of the insurance companies joining the said two management groups, including establishment of guidelines in determining duties, responsibilities, obligations and appropriate risk-premium sharing schemes, in addition to that prescribed by the Board.

3) LTFRB shall maintain its function in terms of monitoring and evaluation of the management groups. A multilateral Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) shall be signed among LTFRB, IC and the two management groups (PAMI and UNITRANS) including its lead companies. Said MOA shall be the basis for monitoring and evaluation.

4) Insurance companies and management groups shall not file any case, be it civil, criminal, administrative or otherwise, against LTFRB or any of its officials and personnel relative to PPAIP.

### IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES

1. **"Two Management Group: Odd-Even System"**

The LTFRB revitalized Passenger Personal Accident Insurance Program (PPAIP) shall adopt the "Two Management Group: Odd-Even System" composed of the PASSENGER ACCIDENT MANAGERS, INC. (PAMI) led by UCPB General Insurance Co. Inc. and the UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT ACCIDENT SOLUTIONS, INC. (UNITRANS) led by Stronghold Insurance Co., Inc.. However, each management group has the option to rotate its lead company within a minimum period of six (6) months and a maximum of one (1) year with 15 days prior notice given to the Board before its effectivity and shall be subject to Board approval.

The middle number of the LTO issued plate numbers shall determine the odd-even scheme assignment. The LTFRB confirmation MUST be secured PRIOR to LTO registration. The details are as follows:

a) All covered PUV(s) with LTO license plates having EVEN Middle Numbers shall be assigned to UNITRANS.

b) All covered PUV(s) with LTO license plates having ODD Middle Numbers shall be assigned to PAMI.

c) The Odd-Even Scheme may be interchanged in the middle of the contract term, first year being from 16 September 2005 to 15 September 2006, second year being 16 September 2006 to 15 September 2007, and the third year being 16 September 2007 to 15 September 2008, fourth year being 16 September 2008 to 15 September 2009, and the fifth year being 16 September 2009 to 15 September 2010, subject to the evaluation and approval of the Board in order to ensure equitable and fair distribution of clients.

2. All public utility vehicles, such as those listed below, are hereby required to secure an "All Risk-No Fault" passenger personal accident insurance with the following covered benefits:

2.1 Death Benefits.

| | No. of Persons Benefits (Incl. Driver) | Death |
|---|---|---|
| • Buses/Mini Buses | all (actual cap. not to exceed 56) | P 3,360,000.00 |
| • Jitneys | all (actual cap. no to Exceed 15) | 900,000.00 |
| • AUV's /Vans | all (9) | 540,000.00 |
| • Sedan | all (5) | 300,000.00 |
| • Trucks-for-Hire | all (3) | 180,000.00 |

2.2 Medical Benefits

| | No. of Persons (Incl. Driver) | Maximum Medical Benefits (Major Injuries with receipts) |
|---|---|---|
| • Buses/Mini Buses | all (actual cap. not to exceed 56) | P 700,000.00 |
| • Jitneys | all (actual cap. no to exceed 15) | 187,000.00 |
| • AUV's/Vans | all (9) | 112,500.00 |
| -Sedan | all (5) | 62,500.00 |
| • Trucks-For-Hire | all (3) | 37,000.00 |

Automatic Medical Benefits for injuries shall be P500.00 without Official Receipt.

2.3 Benefits and Remuneration. The insurance remuneration for each covered passenger is as follows:

| | Benefits | Maximum Amount per Passenger |
|---|---|---|
| a. | Accidental Death | P 60,000.00 |
| b. | Loss of two or more limbs | P 60,000.00 |
| c. | Total of irrecoverable loss of sight in both eyes | P 60,000.00 |
| d. | Loss of both hands or above fingers and both thumbs | P 30,300.00 |
| e. | Dismemberment in one limb | P 30,000.00 |
| f. | Total and irrecoverable loss of sight in one eye | P 30,000.00 |
| g. | Loss of arm, at or above elbow | P 42,000.00 |
| h. | Loss of arm between elbow and wrist | 30,000.00 |
| i. | Loss of hand | 25,500.00 |
| j. | Loss of 4 fingers | 25,500.00 |
| k. | Loss of 1 thumb | 18,000.00 |
| l. | Loss of index finger | 9,000.00 |
| m. | Loss of middle finger | 6,000.00 |
| n. | Loss of ring finger | 3,000.00 |
| o. | Loss of little finger | 3,000.00 |
| p. | Loss of metacarpals | 2,400.00 |
| | 1st or 2nd (addl.) | 1,800.00 |
| | 3rd, 4th and 5th | 1,200.00 |
| q. | Loss of leg above the knee | 36,000.00 |
| r. | Loss of leg below the knee | 30,000.00 |
| s. | Loss of one foot | 30,000.00 |
| t. | Loss of big toe | 3,000.00 |
| u. | Loss of all toes in one foot | 9,000.00 |
| v. | Loss of any toe other than big toe | 600.00 |
| w. | Loss of hearing – both ears | 30,000.00 |
| x. | Loss of one ear | 4,200.00 |

2.4 Bail Bonds. In case of litigations filed against the driver of said LTFRB authorized PUV, a maximum Bail Bond Assistance of P 20,000.00 shall be shouldered by PAMI and UNITRANS and paid directly to the Court or to the Bonding Company, on cases arising from accidents covered by the PPAIP.

2.5 The Management Groups shall establish a Five Million Peso (P5,000,000.00) revolving fund to implement the PUV Drivers Academy (one in Metro Manila, one in Cebu City, and one in Davao City) to better equip drivers with safety skills and defensive driving habits. A databanking system of all graduates of the Drivers Academy shall be established by LTFRB to monitor PUV driver performance and possible blacklisting for habitual violators and drivers who may pose great danger to the riding public.

3. "All Risk-No Fault" policy shall be adopted, including, but not limited to the following:

3.1 Covered despite the condition of the driver at the time of the accident, whether:

a) driver is unauthorized;
b) driver is under the influence of liquor;
c) driver is under the influence of legal or prohibited drugs; or

3.2 Covered despite violations of designated route, ex. Out-of-line.
3.3 Covered even during the incidence of unprovoked homicide, murder and/or assault, including holdup and kidnap incidents.
3.4 Covers even non-paying passengers such as, but not limited, to drivers, conductors, vendors, beggars and the like.
3.5 Covers even persons/passengers while boarding and disembarking the insured vehicle or immediately thereafter.
3.6 Covered despite change of ownership of the vehicle; provided that the vehicle shall retain its status as "LTFRB-authorized" Public Utility Vehicle.
3.7 Covered until its expiry date unless reverted to "Private" status.
3.8 Covered without Automatic Termination Clause.
3.9 Covered despite Terrorist Attacks.

4. **Key Conditionalities.** To address the concerns of the transport sector and the commuting public, the following conditions shall be strictly enforced:

4.1 PAMI and UNITRANS, their agents and employees, shall not resort to predatory pricing of insurance premiums which are markedly unresponsive to the subscribed benefits.

4.2 No commissions, rebates and/or discounts shall be allowed.

4.3 Fleet operators (with fifty units and above) may avail of the twenty percent (20%) fleet discount in their premium payments from either PAMI or UNITRANS.

4.4 Fleet operators may be allowed to choose either PAMI or UNITRANS to provide convenience, since they operate fifty units and above, subject to information submitted to the Board by both operator and management group and buy back arrangements between PAMI and UNITRANS.

4.5 LTFRB shall only recognize those authorized branch offices and their duly authorized and certified representatives. UNITRANS and PAMI shall submit a list of its authorized branch managers and key personnel with their specimen signatures and official addresses. Only said personnel shall be recognized by LTFRB as the duly authorized representatives of PAMI and UNITRANS to issue, distribute or release the required insurance policy/ certificate of cover (COC).

4.6 Payment of all claims shall be made within five (5) working days from occurrence of validated incident and/or accident under an "All Risk-No Fault" Insurance Policy.

4.7 Management Group shall inform LTFRB of all accidents monitored including deaths and injuries within twenty-four (24) hours and submit weekly reports to the IMRC until the closure of the claims.

4.8 Establish a single point of contact and/or hotline number/call center accessible 24 hours per day, seven days a week. To facilitate this, PAMI and UNITRANS shall set up the passenger accident monitoring link of the LTFRB Website (for monitoring purposes);

4.9 Lead insurance companies shall issue COCs with security markings and the standard form and contents must be duly approved by the LTFRB and concurred by the Insurance Commission. A distinctive regional alphanumeric series of Certificates of Cover shall be solely assigned for this program.

4.10 Management Group shall issue authorized intelligent cards to all PUV franchise holders which shall contain all pertinent data relative to franchises, insurance coverage and violations and apprehension at no cost to LTFRB. LTFRB shall be given three (3) intelligent card readers/ region, and five (5) for the central office, or a total of fifty (50) units.

4.11 PAMI and UNITRANS, separately, shall establish and maintain a Common Claims Fund, which shall not be less than Twenty Million Pesos (P20,000,000.00) at any given time.

4.12 A distinct and separate Book of Accounts shall be maintained by PAMI and UNITRANS as the bases in reckoning tax payments due to the government and for its financial performance review.

4.13 PAMI and UNITRANS shall establish a nationwide computer database link among all fifteen (15) LTFRB Regional Offices and the Central Office to allow sharing of all Public Utility Vehicles (PUVs) data. This databank shall be made accessible with "read only facility" and available to everyone throughout the country in real time through the LTFRB Website with proper security features to only allow certain authorized persons to have "write capability" and shall provide IT link with LTO to facilitate LTFRB confirmation prior to registration, at no cost to LTFRB;

4.14 PAMI and UNITRANS must establish a PUV Accident Monitoring System to assist in the accident rescue operations of local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on site and proactively assist in the preparation of claim documents.

4.15 PAMI and UNITRANS will design a scheme regarding "Buy-out – Buy-back agreement for all COCs issued by PAMI, to be reckoned from the date of suspension of the previously accredited group, SAMI;

4.16 In case of violations, the accreditation of PAMI and UNITRANS shall be subject to the sanctions imposed by the Board after full investigation. The Board, for public interest, may issue a Cease and Desist Order. Sanctions are the following:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| a) | First Offense | Fine |
| b) | Second Offense | Fine |
| c) | Third and Final Offense | Fine/Termination of Contract |

*(The Board shall determine the amount)*

5. **Contract Term** – Due to the additional requirements and conditions of the Board relative to the implementation of a successful Passenger Personal Accident Insurance Program (PPAIP) and to ensure continuity of the special programs indicated therein, the Board extends the contract term up to 15 September 2010, unless otherwise extended, suspended or revoked by this Board.

All issuances, circulars and orders inconsistent with the foregoing circular are hereby deemed amended, revised or revoked.

This memorandum circular shall take effect immediately.

Quezon City, Philippines. September 14, 2005.

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

(PDI – September 16, 2005)

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## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

**BMW**

'98 BMW 316i Aspen Wht 55TKm, Asking Price P550T w/Audio Setup 0919-8656826

**HONDA**

95 Accord EXi P250T Neg Must See Cell 0918-9336940

**MITSUBISHI**

94 L200 Blk 100% 1st Own 913-9250 • 0917-8983483 #32 Rajah Matanda, Proj.4, QC

**NISSAN**

X-TRAIL 100,000 DP BNEW
1.3GX MT 50,000 DP
1.6GS AT 60,000 DP
NEW ESCAPADE 150,000 DP
CONTACT 0917 8031611

**TOYOTA**

'03 TOYOTA RAV4 4X2 GOLD 820T CALL 9178739397

**OTHER CAR BRANDS**

Pajero Trooper Largo Surf Serena Safari Lite-Town Ace Estima Fargo RVR etc. T-In Financing 9120647

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

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MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956•8957247

Cheap Van 9330311,9348411

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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1.5% Auto Express 5221001

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 6560140

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 6966630/33

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 7262780

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### AUDIO/ VIDEO

Harman Kardon Receiver 330model P28T 0917-6664346

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

### PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

Exclnt Dog Sch 0919-2050952

•PITBULL 2MONS 8872865•

ST BERNARD M/F 0917-6229034

### SPORTING GOODS

BOWLING SUPPLIES BRAND NEW FIBERGLASS DUCKPIN; BRAND NEW 5" DIAMETER DUCKPIN BALL; TO BE INSTALLED GOOD 2nd HAND BOWLING ALLEY (SUPAWOOD OR MAPLE IMPTD WOOD) CALL MALOLOS WOODWORKS T(044)7915370 ASK NORMA

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## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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### ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to the new MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST for passing the new licensure examination given by the P.R.C. this month: CLEMENTE KATHERINE ESPINOSA , DE LOS REYES LALAINE BAUTISTA , DY JOANNA GRACE DY , OBIÑA JOVANNIE DE LOS ANGELES , REYNO NICOLAS BETY

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given the estate of the JULITA C. BAUTISTA has been extrajudicially settled by her legal heirs as per Doc No. 62 Page No. 14 Book No. VII Series of 2005 of Notary Public Atty Benigno M. Puno of Pasig City
(PDI-Sept 16, 23 & 30, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NG SENG LAO has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs with waiver of rights as per Doc. No. 215, Page No. 20, Book No. XXII, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Jose V. Marcella.
(PDI-Sept. 2, 9 & 16, 2005)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE KATHLEEN M. SIYTANGCO HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIRS AS PER DOC. #231; PAGE #48; BOOK # III SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE NOT. PUBLIC ATTY. ALFONSO L. SANTOS OF MAKATI CITY
(PDI SEPT. 2, 9 & 16, 2005)

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
**BOARD OF INVESTMENTS**
Industry and Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue,
Makati City, Philippines
Tel. No. 897-6682 / 890-1332; Fax No. 895-8322

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of UKC Builders, Inc. with office address at Tablon, Cagayan de Oro City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book 1 of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended, as New Operator of Infrastructure (Public Market with Commercial Complex) under Build-Operate-Transfer Scheme at a capacity of 9,111 sq.m. and with base of operations at Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City has been officially accepted on August 26, 2005 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the Board of Investments within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CANA
Director
Project Evaluation and
Registration Department

(PDI - Sept. 16, 2005)

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## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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### MALE/FEMALE

IMMEDIATE HIRING SALES REP F.M. AUDITOR ACCTG CLERK DYE MAKER PRESSMAN TINCAN LATERO DRIVER IOW INDL ELEC'N 3642032-27

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Republic of the Philippines
**ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY**
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

### CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) UNITS INVESTORS HOUSE AT THE ZAMBOECOZONE FIRST INDUSTRIAL PARK

1. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the sum of THREE MILLION FIFTY-THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT PESOS & 32/100 ONLY (P3,053,578.32) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for "Construction of Two (2) Units Investors Houses". Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the "Construction of Two (2) Units Investors Houses". Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) on September 22-27, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on October 3, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building on or before October 3, 2005.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on October 10-14, 2005 during office hours.

6. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on October 17, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.

7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before October 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check in an amount of Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Five Pesos & 78/100 Only (P30,535.78) and GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of Seventy-Six Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Nine Pesos & 46/100 (P76,339.46) or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on October 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below on October 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

8 Completion of the Works is required by 120 calendar days.

9. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0209
E-mail: Ecozone_bac@yahoo.com

(PDI - Sept. 16 & 23, 2005)

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## Seminar on Internal Consulting: A key to success

IMPERIAL CONSULTING INC. IN PARTNERship with American Management Association and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines brings you Internal Consulting: Key to Success on Sept. 29-30, at the Makati Shangri-La. Balance your technical expertise with enhanced people and project management skills. You'll learn strategies to help you quickly and accurately fulfill user needs. Discover ways to get better buy-in and more cooperation when you implement new projects. Successfully navigate the tricky waters of organizational politics. A special personality profile can help you understand your own communication style-and use it to your advantage on the job. For more information, call 8451324 or 7596680 or email to jrunez@imperialconsulting.com.ph or visit our website at www.imperialconsulting.com.ph

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THE HERITAGE PARK
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# OBITUARIES

The Board, NGO Members and Staff
of
Philippine NGO Council on Population,
Health & Welfare Inc. (PNGOC)

*Announce the demise*
*of*

## FELIX ROSARIO

*(Founding Member of PNGOC)*

*Peacefully joined our Lord*
*on September 12, 2005 at the age of 73.*

His wife **Isabel**, & son **Ricky**, in-laws, grandchildren, sisters & relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Neighbors Population & Development Services (NPDS) – 051 Tomas A. Castillo Rd., Baliwasan, Zamboanga City 7000.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 21, 2005, 1:00 p.m. at Calarian, Southcom, Zamboanga City.

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## ANA ADORACION ESPIRITU BIENVENIDA

widow of the late

MANUEL D. BIENVENIDA

*Peacefully joined her Creator on September 13, 2005 at the age of 87*
*after receiving the last Sacrament.*

Her loving children, **Marilen, Marites, Totoy** and **Sonia, Jessie** and **Miriam, Al** and **Elsie, Raymond** and **Marissa, Ric** and **Maricor**, and **Josie** and **Jun**; grandchildren, **Tiffie** and **Jovy, Mike, Marla, Timmy** and **Vangie, Trixie, Lexie, Marvin, Alvin, Ayssa, Katrina, Argene, Sarah, Ana, Kokoy**, and **Kyle**; great grandchildren, **AJ, Joshua, Nikki**, and **Johann**; relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Bonifacio Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be tomorrow, September 17, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Bonifacio Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat.

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## Death Notices

### ERNESTO L. NERI, SR.

Oct. 27, 1950 – Sept. 14, 2005

His body lies at Rizal Funeral Homes.
Interment will be on Sept. 18 at Pasay Municipal Cemetery.

— oOo —

### DANIEL GREGORIO SR.

Died on Sept. 13, 2005 at age 86 after a lingering illness.

His body lies in state in his residence in
Tarcan, Baliuag, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, Sept. 17 at Maniego Cemetery, Makinabang, Baliuag, Bulacan after the 2pm Mass.

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## OSCAR CESAR P. SANEDRIN

July 23, 1950 – September 9, 2005

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord*
*on September 9, 2005 in Skokie, Illinois, USA*
*at the age of 55.*

His bereaved parents **Alberto Rizal D.L. Sanedrin** (†) and **Flocerfina Estrella P. Palisoc-Sanedrin** (†); sisters and brothers **Erlinda Catalina** and **Angel Averia, Edna Flor** and **Eduardo Fernandez, Shirley Myrna** and **Bonifacio San Pedro, Josefina Rizalina** and **Romeo Ochoco, Alberto Rizal, Jr.** and **Naome Go, Alfredo Paterno** (†) and **Nenita Estrellado, Jose Rizal** and **Ramona Anareta** (†) **Jesus Maria** (†) and **Lillian Ruby** (†); nephews and nieces; grand nephews and grand nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Baltazar Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City and will be brought to his hometown in Binalonan, Pangasinan in the morning of Saturday, September 17th.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 18, 2005 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Holy Child Parish Church in Binalonan, Pangasinan.

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*"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me." Psalm 116:7*

**To our beloved**

## FRANCESCA JOY G. GABA

*Has joined her **KUYA JOED** and peacefully rested in the infinite warmth and embrace of our **Lord** on September 12, 2005 at the age of 15.*

Her loving parents; PAPA EDGARD & MAMA JOSEPHINE; sister ATE JOELLA & KUYA RUEL, LOLA PACITA, TITO'S & TITA'S; TOTO & VIVIAN, SONNY BOY & BINGBING, ALEX & JENG, BINKY & HILDA, SARAH & NOEL, LYNDA & ROMY, VEGEL & VERLIE, (†) TONY & BEBOT, VICKY & FRANK, BILL & GRACE, EMIL & BABY, NEPHEWS, COUSINS, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be tomorrow, September 17, 2005 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

# CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
**KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS**

September 6, 2005

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through the General Appropriations Act and/or continuing appropriations for CY 2005, intends to apply the sum of ***Nine Million Three Hundred Fifty One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos*** **(P9,351,500.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Procurement of 590 cartridges – Toners for Lexmark T632 Laser Printers.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), now invites Bids from eligible bidders for **Brand new toners for Lexmark T632 Laser Printer with printing capacity of 21,000 pages per toner, Product Number 12A7462 and with shelf life of two (2) years from the date of delivery.** Delivery of the GOODS is required **by Fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of Approved Purchase Order.**

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging of citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grand similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief Procurement Division at the address given below from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM starting September 9, 2005.
5. A Complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon cash payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fifty One and 50/100 Pesos Only (P9,351.50)** to the BIR Cashier.
6. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 23, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.,** 3/F Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address on or before **October 5, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in Section 22.1 of the Bid Data Sheet. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **October 5, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.** at 3/F Executive Conference Room, Bureau of Internal Revenue, NOB, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the above address.
9. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.
10. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders.

Bureau of Internal Revenue
Atty. James H. Roldan
Assistant Commissioner-Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Rm. 605, 6/F Procurement Division
BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 9265547 / Telefax No. 9282026
Email address. bac@bir.gov.ph

**(Sgd.) ATTY. JAMES H. ROLDAN**
Assistant Commissioner, Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 9 & 16, 2005)

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*Republic of the Philippines*
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (PUBLIC BIDDING)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) wishes to invite bidders for the **Frame Relay Subscription for PHILHEALTH Head Office and Regional Offices.**

Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from September 16, 2005 to September 29, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC) Room 1804, 18th Floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd. Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php **4,250.00.**

The PhilHealth had provided funds for this project. The approved budget for this contract is **Php 8,500,000.00.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on September 30, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC (Rm. 1804).

The bidders shall prepare their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposal in three separate sealed envelopes and drop in the respective bid boxes located at the above-mentioned address.

Submission of bids will be on October 21, 2005 on or before 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC. Opening of bids will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same venue. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time clock shall be the PhilHealth's bundy clock located at the lobby of 18th floor. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

The BAC-ITR shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the **non-discretionary "pass/fail"** criteria.

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount:

| Forms of Security | Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid | Amount of Bid Security |
|---|---|---|
| Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit | One percent (1%) | Php 85,000.00 |
| Bank Guarantee | One and a half percent (1 1/2%) | Php 127,500.00 |
| Surety Bond | Two and a half percent (2 1/2%) | Php 212,500.00 |
| Foreign Government Guarantee | One hundred percent (100%) | Php 8,500,000.00 |

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

**PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality on the eligibility requirements of this project. Furthermore, PhilHealth reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.**

**(Sgd.) MELINDA C. MERCADO**
SVP, Health Insurance Operations Sector and
Chairperson, BAC-ITR

(PDI--Sept. 16 & 23, 2005)

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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

## Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

### SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MULTIFUNCTION REVENUE METERS
(Reference No.: PB050820-PP0086)

1. The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO) through the 2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board* intends to apply the sum of **Php 15,000,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***PR No. MSG-05-000010781/ Supply & Delivery of Multifunction Revenue Meters.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the Supply and delivery of Multifunction Revenue Meters.* Delivery of the GOODS is required ***ninety (90) calendar days upon receipt of Order.*** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A., 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from ***September 12 to October 11, 2005*** at the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of *Php 2,000.00.* The method of payment will be *Cash.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 16, 2005/10:00 A.M.** at the address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 12, 2005/10:00 A.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

| FORM OF SECURITY | AMOUNT |
|---|---|
| 1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC) | Php 150,000.00 |
| 2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC) | Php 225,000.00 |
| 3. Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC) | Php 375,000.00 |
| 4. Foreign Government Guarantee (100% of ABC) | Php15,000,000.00 |

7. Bid opening shall be on ***October 12, 2005/10:00 A.M.*** at the ***Admin Conference Room same address below.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812206 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – September 16, 2005)

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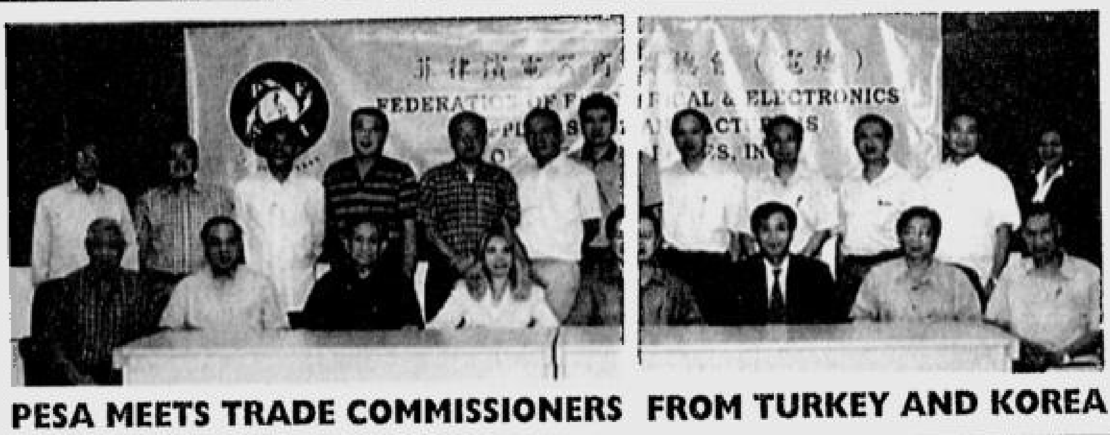
## Powerspeak's Personal Awareness and Leadership seminar slated

POWERSPEAK INC IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PHILIPPINE DAILY Inquirer, Jollibee Foods and Monde Nissin brings to you the Personal Awareness and Leadership seminar on September 16 to 18 at the Cattleya Building 235 Salcedo St. Legazpi Village, Makati City. Discover your own personal potential by increasing your awareness and understanding of the beliefs that you have which may be limiting you. People acquire and embrace certain beliefs that sometimes keep them from becoming successful in their lives. Self esteem and self confidence are a direct result of our personal beliefs about what we can or cannot do. If you grow up in an atmosphere of blaming and distrust you tend to be suspicious or others as well. Our beliefs affect our attitude which affects our behavior. The three day seminar seeks to empower individuals by understanding the self through a series of lectures and exercises. Only through a real and honest understanding of our self can we begin to move forward with new found character and courage to get the results we want and deserve in our lives. The seminar will provide the participant with over 60 tools, concepts, techniques for more successful living. The investment is P7,000.00. For group discounts and other information you may call 8405958 8405960 or text 0917-555-JOEY (5639) or email PowerSpeak@gmail.com or visit the website at www.powerspeakph.com



PESA MEETS TRADE COMMISSIONERS FROM TURKEY AND KOREA

**SHOWN (bottom row from left) are PESA past president Edgar Young, vice president Nolly Ty, past president Antonio Sy, Sr., Trade Commissioner Imran Er (Turkey), PESA president Benjamin Calubad, Trade Commissioner Sohn-Man Soon (Korea), vice president Manuel Siao and past president Go Kien Koc. PESA Board secretary Dr. Fernando Gan** is 3rd from left in the 2nd row with other PESA Directors and Officers.

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GLOBE G CASH

# INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES G-CASH AS INNOVATIVE REMITTANCE CHANNEL

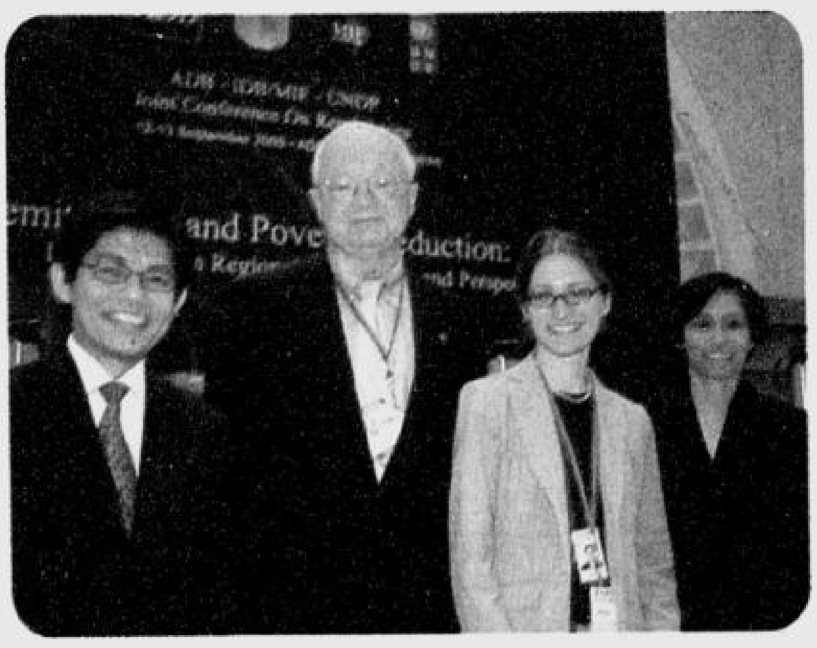
***Through the years, international remittance has increasingly begun to play a major role in the global economy. In 2004 alone, an estimated US$127 billion worth of formal remittances were recorded worldwide; of the significantly larger unrecorded and unregulated money transfers, little is known. As one of the top five recipient countries of remittances, the Philippines has long been viewed as a model for the industry's best practices. This year, G-Xchange, Inc. President Joey Mendoza was tapped to present G-Cash as a successful case study for mobile micro-remittance at the Joint Conference on Remittances held recently at the ADB Headquarters in Ortigas. More than three hundred stakeholders attended the conference, which was co-sponsored by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Multilateral Investment Fund for the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme.***

As the country's only wireless, cashless and cardless integrated mobile payment system, G-Cash enables the nearly 14-million combined Globe and TM subscriber base to make purchases and payments, person-to-person transfer of cash values, and is the first m-commerce service to allow both domestic and international remittances.

According to Mendoza, strategic institutional partnerships have helped G-Cash develop applications that are meaningful and relevant to OFWs and other lower-income market segments. Dubbed "G-Cash Pera2Pamilya," the service's international remittance functionality empowers OFWs by giving them a fast, reliable and secure means of sending their hard-earned salaries to their loved ones back home.

*Joey Mendoza, President of G-Xchange, Inc., Globe Telecom's wholly owned subsidiary tasked to oversee the development of G-Cash and Philippine M-Commerce.*

*Infoserve President and CEO Zollo Jesus dela Cruz III (leftmost), WOW Technologies' Romy Redilicia (3rd from left) and former Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani (4th from left) join the G-Cash delegation at the Joint Commission on Remittances held recently at the ADB Headquarters in Ortigas.*



*Asian Development Bank's Austin Belton and Johanna Klein (center two) discuss the success of the G-Cash remittance model with Joey Mendoza and Rita Nisperos (leftmost and rightmost, respectively).*

With a wide cash-handling network comprised of leading settlement banks, 1,617 domestic and 203 international remittance partners across 15 countries, low cost (only US$0.02 per transaction), and real-time capabilities, G-Cash encourages steady remittance flow, driving much-needed cash into OFW households faster. "As a micropayment system, G-Cash does not compete, but rather, complements existing practices by enabling traditional remittance institutions to reach out to a wider market," adds Mendoza.

### *Preferred by OFWs*

High mobile phone ownership, SMS familiarity and low rates ensure that G-Cash remains accessible to the major segments of the population who have little or no access to banking or credit transactions. "I use my mobile wallet for emergencies," says Arwin Reyes, a registered G-Cash subscriber, noting that G-Cash has become handy in purchasing groceries and reloading his Globe Prepaid phone as well. Reyes, who has an OFW relative based in Hong Kong, also looks forward to being able to receive remittances via G-Cash, adding that "*mas mabilis ito kumpara sa ibang money transfer, secure[d] pa* (it's faster compared to other money transfers, plus it's secure)". Marisa Cayat was encouraged to switch to G-Cash by the lower transaction fees, while convenience and user-accessibility were the primary reasons Lourdes Dimaano began using the service. "*Sana lahat ng country nag-accept ng G-Cash* (I wish all countries would accept G-Cash – for remittance)," Dimaano adds.

*The G-Cash team gives Veronique Moore of the US Embassy a hands-on demonstration of the service.*

### *Going beyond remittances*

G-Cash has also extended Globe's existing OFW services to include Bayad Centers (overseas bills payment facilities), Quick Remit and Load (prepaid phone load and G-Cash values card), and online shopping and delivery via *www.smappliance.com.* The service also uplifts the spirits of the global *Pinoy* by creating events and activities that bring them closer to home, such as the *G-Cash-OK Videoke Promo*. From September 8 to November 8, 2005, OFWs, their beneficiaries and their respective international and domestic remittance outlets get the chance to win G-Cash prizes and premium WOW Magic Sing microphones for every successfully completed Pera2Pamilya transaction. Remitters also get premium items after two successive transactions at the same outlet. The promo was launched recently at the *Palarong Pilipino 2005*, one of the most-anticipated events of the OFW community in Singapore.

"G-Cash shall continue to support OFWs and other lower-income segments by forging alliances with leading banks, grassroots institutions, and establishments that uplift the Filipino way of life," he concludes.

*Mendoza and Nisperos with ADB-IDB/ MIF-UNDP conference participant, former Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani (center).*

*More than just enabling OFWs to send Pera2Pamilya, G-Cash also uplifts their spirits through events and activities like the G-Cash-OK Videoke promo launched in the 2005 Pamilyang Pinoy sportfest in Singapore.*

*Globe Head of Corporate Marketing Rita Nisperos and G-Xchange, Inc. President Joey Mendoza flank Mr. Chee Sung Lee of the International Money Fund (IMF), one of the 37 experts tapped for the global remittance conference.*

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*Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

# Cream bar aims to change concept of beauty and sell in the process

**By Margie Quimpo-Espino**

RARE IT IS FOR AN ADVERTISING campaign to take the form of a cause but that's how Dove, the cream soap views its latest marketing line.

Principally the message—campaign for real beauty—is geared at women to be happy with imperfections—whether they are young or old, big or small, long hair or short hair, spotted or flawless skin.

But the campaign still has a long way to go in the Philippines—the fact today is most Filipinas do not find themselves beautiful.

A study sponsored by Dove across over 2,000 women from 10 Asian countries reveal only five percent of Filipinas consider themselves beautiful.

People from all over the world, not just Asia, are still locked in a stereotype of what a beautiful woman is—slim with long hair, full breasts, flawless skin and young.

"Our goal is to liberate Filipinos in the often limiting stereotype of beauty and hopefully they will love Dove in the process," says Dondi Gomez, marketing manager of skin of Unilever, maker of the Dove line.

To liberate women, Dove launched a series of "beauty debates" where they posted billboards and print ads of women who, are not beautiful in the stereotype sense.

One photo for example shows a lady with white hair and beside it they ask the question—aging or ageless?

Gomez says it has sparked some debate in some sectors. And he hopes that someday, people, will start accepting non-stereotypes of beauty.

Jenny Infante-Reyes, brand

CREAM/ B2-2

DONDI Gomez

# Make your savings earn more

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

WHEN THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS ordered banks to phase out common trust funds (CTFs) or shift them into what it believes to be a superior product called unit investment trust funds (UITFs), it was seen as a double-edged sword.

Depending on one's perspective, the phase out either disrupts P300 billion worth of funds now locked in these instruments or paves the way for the local market to embrace the instrument more in line with international best practice.

Knowing the regime of UITFs will dawn in the country, American Express Bank Philippines has long taken steps to include them in its local offerings as early as 2003.

Without any outstanding CTFs to phase out, AEBP does not have the burden of converting to UITFs. At the same time, its niche of high networth clients provides sufficient base to jumpstart its offering.

UITFs are pooled trust funds in acceptable currencies operated by a trust entity and made available by participation.

## Good returns

Unlike the CTFs, these funds are exempted from reserve requirement as they are independent from the bank proper. They also better reflect market values.

A client who is used to receiving annual or semi-annual reports on how his investments are performing will be appraised more frequently but may be surprised with more fluctuations on net asset value. But short-term volatility should not be a problem for well-managed funds.

With the American Express Peso Cash plus and American Express Dollar Wealth Plus UITF accounts, the US bank plans to get at least 10 percent of the P300-billion funds flowing out of CTFs.

For a minimum investment of $5,500 for the dollar fixed income and P300,000 for its peso fund, the bank's UITFs offer the good returns.

As of Aug. 25, the annualized return for AEBP's dollar fixed income fund was 10.06 percent, making it the country's best performer under the taxable category of dollar-denominated fixed income UITF.

The bank's peso short-term fixed income fund also ranks number one in its own category with an annualized return of 8.32 percent. The returns are all net of taxes and fund managers' fees and gross of AEBP's custodianship fee.

"The recent developments in the Philippine trust market poses distinct opportunities for its investors," AEBP president Ian Fish said.

Stella Sampayan, head of AEBP trust department, estimates that the bank has now generated about P1 billion in investments for these two pioneering UITFs.

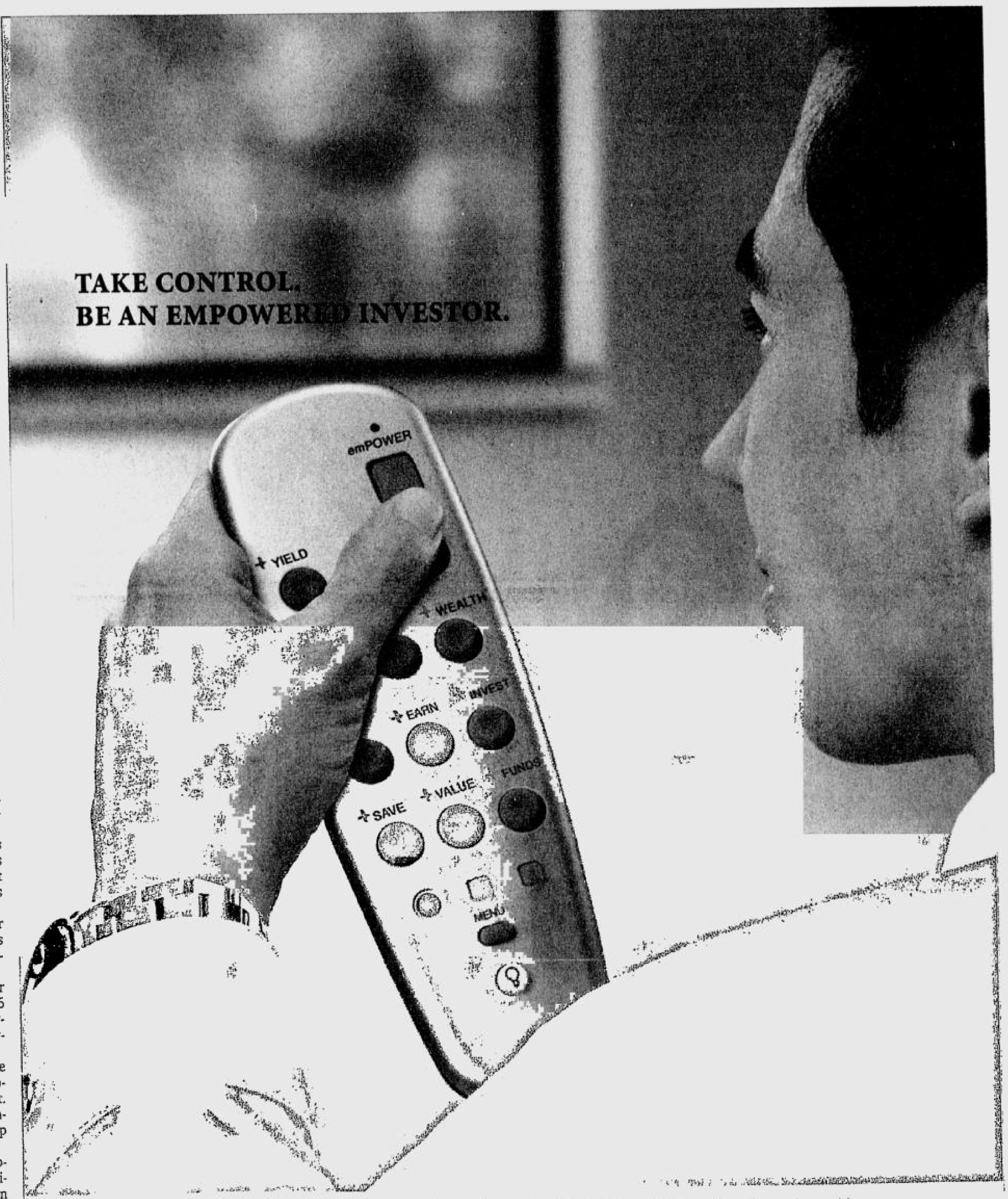
"With all the enhancements introduced by the UITF, the Philippine market will be aligned with international best practices and thus becomes a more attractive investment outlet—this contributes to the UITF having the potential to generate higher yields for investors," Sampayan said.

## Numerous complaints

The BSP required the phaseout of CTFs because of numerous complaints against this product. There were clients who were not fully appraised of the risks they were taking and thought that their CTF investments were similar to deposit products insured by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Aside from the usual complaints on the nature of investments, BSP has uncovered other violations relating to trust activities, such as the illegal transfer of certain loan accounts from the bank proper to trust accounts. Prior to the 1997 Asian currency crisis, there were not too many complaints on trust funds, reflecting the quite stable corporate sector then.

MAKE/ B2-2



The power to grow your wealth is rewarding. This is especially true in a constantly changing and dynamic investment environment. That's why you need to be ready to act as the investment market upgrades from Common Trust Fund (CTF) to Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF).

It would be wise, then, to take a closer look at the UITF made available through the American Express Bank Peso Cash Plus and Dollar Wealth Plus Deposit Accounts.

| UITF | Available through American Express Bank | Earnings per Annum (as of 09/05/05)* |
|---|---|---|
| Philippine Dollar Fixed Income Fund | Dollar Wealth Plus Account | 11.79% |
| Peso Short Term Fixed Income Fund | Peso Cash Plus Account | 8.47% |

*Annualized historical return of the Third Party Funds, net of taxes and fund manager fee, gross of American Express Bank's custodianship fee for the last 12 months.

American Express. A trusted name all over the world.
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**Binondo Branch**
475 Quintin Paredes Street, Binondo, Manila
Tel. No. 232-1000

**Greenhills Branch**
53 Connecticut Street, San Juan
Tel. No. 722-9888

American Express Bank (A Savings Bank) ("AEBP") Trust Department does not guarantee a yield or return of income from the investments. Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance. AEBP Trust Department shall not be liable for any loss or depreciation in the value of the customer's investments unless attributable to the AEBP Trust Department's act of fraud, wilful deceit, gross negligence, or evident bad faith. Investments in the trust account do not carry guarantee of income or principal. Gains and losses shall be for the owner's sole account. The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation does not cover balances or other assets in Custody Accounts maintained with the Bank's Trust Department.

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC). Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor: P250,000.

PCash+ | $Wealth+

American Express Bank
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# BIR's RELIEF to enhance tax collection

**By Rafael C. Vinzon and Elner A. Reyes**
*SGV & Co.*

**TAX-FILES**

IT'S PAYBACK TIME. THE BUreau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is now reaping the fruits of its investment in information technology to enhance tax collections. A couple of years ago, the BIR introduced a new system that would detect tax leaks, through the matching of available data in its database with the information gathered from third party sources. This system reinforces the BIR's current direction to implement the so called "no-contact-audit-approach" policy. The BIR calls the new system "RELIEF", which stands for "Reconciliation of Listing for Enforcement".

Under the RELIEF System, all VAT taxpayers above the threshold limit set by regulations are required to submit a summary list of sales and purchases on a quarterly basis based on a prescribed format issued by the BIR.

The summary lists of sales and purchases provide the BIR with vital information that will later on be consolidated and matched with other externally-sourced data using the RELIEF System. Aside from matching of information taken from the summary lists of sales and purchases, the BIR may also compare the information with other tax returns and declarations filed by the taxpayer, such as alpha list of payees subject to final or creditable withholding taxes. Obviously, the BIR's purpose in consolidating and matching all the information in its database is to detect any possible underdeclaration of revenues and/or overdeclaration of costs and expenses by VAT taxpayers, thus leading to potential tax-assessments and efficient tax administration.

In order to implement and enforce the RELIEF System, the BIR issued Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 08-02, dated June 13, 2002 which amended previous regulations requiring the submission of summary lists of sales and purchases.

Under RR No. 08-02, all VAT taxpayers with quarterly total sales/receipts (net of VAT) exceeding P2.5 million are required to submit a summary list of sales on a quarterly basis. The summary list of sales should contain: (1) BIR-registered name of the buyers; (2) Tax Identification Number (TIN) of the buyers; (3) Exempt Sales; (4) Zero-rated Sales; (5) Sales subject to VAT; and (6) Output tax payment.

The quarterly summary list of sales will contain only the total monthly sales generated from "regular buyers/customers", regardless of the amount of sale per buyer/customer, as well as from casual buyers/customers with individual sale amounting to P100,000 or more. For this purpose, the term "regular buyers/customers" is defined as those buyers/customers who are engaged in business or exercise of profession with whom the taxpayer has transacted at least six transactions, regardless of the amount per transaction, either in the previous year or current year.

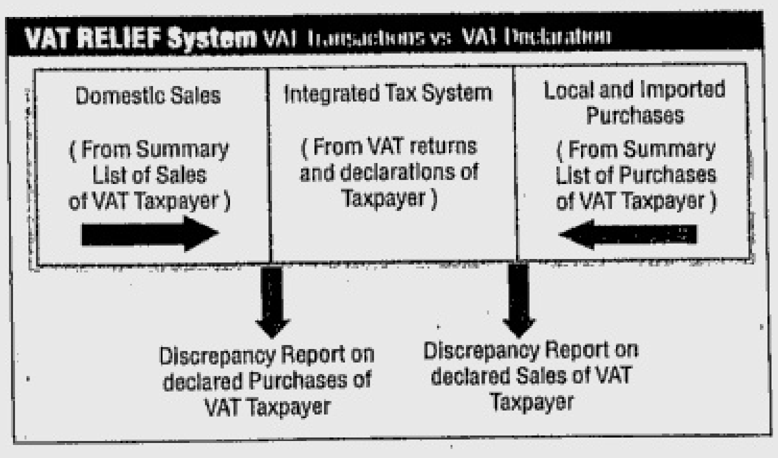
In addition to the summary list of sales, RR No. 08-02 also requires all VAT taxpayers with quarterly total purchases (net of VAT) exceeding P1 million to submit summary list of purchases on a quarterly basis.

The purchases may be divided into two classifications: (1) domestic or local purchases, and (2) importations. The summary list of local purchases should contain: (1) BIR-registered name of the sellers/suppliers; (2) TIN and address of the sellers/suppliers; (3) Exempt purchases; (4) Zero-rated purchases; (5) Purchases subject to VAT on services, capital goods and goods other than capital goods. For the importations, the summary list of purchases should contain the following information, namely: (1) Import Entry Declaration Number; (2) Assessment/Release Date; (3) Date of Importation; (4) Name of seller; (5) Country of Origin; (6) Dutiable value; (7) All charges before the release from Customs' Custody; (8) Landed cost; (9) VAT paid; (10) Date of VAT payment; and (11) Official Receipt number of the Official Receipt evidencing the payment of the tax.

VAT taxpayers are required to submit the quarterly summary lists of sales and purchases to the proper BIR office where they are registered, using a 3.5-inch floppy diskette or through electronic data transmission, on or before the 25th day of the month following the close of the VAT quarter, together with the filing of the quarterly VAT return and payment of the tax due thereon. In case total sales and/or purchases in any quarter exceeds the threshold amounts, the VAT taxpayers are required to submit the summary lists for such quarter and for the succeeding quarters of the year, regardless of whether or not the threshold amounts for the succeeding quarters are met.

In case of failure to submit the summary lists of sales and purchases within the prescribed period, the penalty is P1,000 for each failure to submit the list, unless it can be shown that such failure is due to reasonable cause and not to any willful neglect. The aggregate amount that can be imposed by the BIR for all such failures during the taxable year should not exceed P 25,000. In addition to the administrative penalty, VAT taxpayers can still be subject to criminal penalty in case it can be proven that there is a willful failure to keep any record and to supply the correct and accurate information in the period or periods required by the BIR.

A RELIEF database will be created by the BIR where the information taken from the quarterly summary lists of sales and purchases will be stored for consolidation and evaluation. The BIR will apply the computerized matching and comparison of all the information stored in the RELIEF database with other data compiled in the Integrated Tax System such as the VAT returns and declarations in order to determine the existence of any discrepancy in the report on sales and purchases. Shown below is the application of the RELIEF System with other data submitted to the BIR.


VAT RELIEF System VAT Transactions vs VAT Declaration
Domestic Sales
( From Summary List of Sales of VAT Taxpayer )
Integrated Tax System
( From VAT returns and declarations of Taxpayer )
Local and Imported Purchases
( From Summary List of Purchases of VAT Taxpayer )
Discrepancy Report on declared Purchases of VAT Taxpayer
Discrepancy Report on declared Sales of VAT Taxpayer

With the RELIEF System in place, the BIR will simply rely on the computerized matching of information stored in its database to establish any discrepancy in the reported transactions. Once the discrepancy is established, the BIR will send a Letter Notice (LN) to the concerned taxpayers informing them of such findings, as well as an opportunity to explain the discrepancy. The LN shall be generated automatically together with the details of the taxpayers' customers/ suppliers record taken from the BIR database. Some of the possible reasons for the existence of the discrepancies are: (1) Timing difference in the recognition of sales and purchases; (2) Errors in VAT return preparation; (3) Errors in computation; (4) Incomplete or inaccurate BIR information source; and, (5) Underpayment of taxes.

As required by regulations, the BIR will give concerned taxpayers 15 days from the receipt of the LN to explain/reconcile the discrepancies noted, and present supporting documents. In case the taxpayers fail to respond within the given period, the BIR will issue a follow-up letter giving an additional period of 10 days to respond to the LN. If the taxpayers still fail to respond within the additional period given, the BIR will endorse the case to the Assessment Division of the BIR Regional Office or to the appropriate office authorized to review the report of investigation for the issuance of the Preliminary Assessment Notice and Final Assessment Notice.

The issuance of an LN to the concerned taxpayers will not preclude the BIR from issuing another Letter of Authority (LOA) to its revenue examiners who will be given the power to conduct a comprehensive audit of the taxpayers' book of accounts and records in a given taxable year. On the other hand, the concerned taxpayers will be disqualified from amending his tax returns or declarations once the LN is served, since the issuance of the LN can be considered as a notice of audit or investigation.

In sum, the RELIEF System is one of the effective tools being used by the BIR to catch tax evaders. The process not only lessens the personal dealings of the revenue examiners with the taxpayers but it saves the much needed resources and time of the BIR. In the past months, the BIR has issued so many LNs to various taxpayers based on the RELIEF System that led to the issuance of deficiency tax assessments and the unprecedented increase in tax collection. Undeniably, the BIR is on the right track in enforcing the RELIEF System to enhance the tax collections.

# Cream bar aims to change ...

From page B2-1

manager of Dove, says, text votes shows Filipinos are almost 50-50 over what is beautiful and what is not although the traditional concept of beauty remains ahead.

Gomez says the new campaign has a relatively low budget—some P10 million, compared to the P100 million budgets of other Unilever brands like Sunsilk, Creamsilk in the Philippines. Ironically most of the other beauty product of Unilever, especially its hair product commercials, extol the traditional concept of what is beautiful.

The campaign for real beauty started in Europe when Unilever launched the Dove firming lotion (not available in the Philippines).

"The philosophy used was honest beauty. That the product will not transform one into the perfect model and we used real women in the campaign," explains Dondi.

Whether it was the advertising or the lotion was good, sales exceeded expectations. The campaign eventually moved to North America where newspaper and magazine articles and TV shows devoted time on the "debate."

Unilever expanded the campaign to Asia.

"It's a widening of the definition of beauty. We have to look and feel good about ourselves," says Infante.

Despite its low budget, Dove soap (Unilever does not want to call it a soap, preferring the phrase cream bar or beauty bar) has become a household name in the Philippines, largely because it has created a niche among more mature women and children.

For decades it could only be bought in PX stores, especially in Cartimar in Pasay City and Cash and Carry in Makati.

Most Filipinos did not like using Dove as the bar leaves a lotion like feel and Filipinos prefer the squeaky clean feel. However, older people, who tend to have dry skin like the cream bar. And many pediatricians have recommended the use of the Dove unscented bar on children who have dry or sensitive skin.

☐ extra-large?
☐ extra-sexy

MAYNI Dizon and Jenny Infante

The Dove bar was officially launched in the Philippines in 1992 but not much marketing was done. It was relaunched in 2001 and Infante says sales jumped 1,000 percent. Sales continue to rise with an increase of 33 percent during the first half of the year.

The strategy used for the relaunch was testimonials from ordinary women about how their skin changed after using Dove or how people think they look younger than they are.

Dondi says the current campaign is still a take-off from the early marketing strategy. He hopes that the Dove cause will eventually gain wide acceptance and soon people will consider flat chested women or those with weight problems as beautiful.

The Dove bar was created in 1957. Its promise was the bar will not dry women's skin, the way soap does. This was particularly effective in Western countries where the climate is cooler and women have dry skin. It was less in demand in the tropical countries.

Through the 60s, Dove's advertising focused on the demonstrable difference between how Dove feels on the face, compared with soaps. In 1969, real women testimonials were used for the first time to advertise Dove.

In 1979 an independent clinical study proved the Dove Bar milder than sensitive leading bar soaps. Dermatologists recommended it. Newspaper articles featured it.

In 1988 a memorable "beauty" named Jean Shy joyfully shared her discovery of Dove's benefits with television viewers. And Dove's "Conviction of Users" real women testimonial campaign was born. "How Dove used real women became a key" discriminator for the campaign.

Dove has several product lines worldwide but in the Philippines Unilever only sells the bar, the facial wash, the body wash, and the deodorant.

# Araw awards ala Cannes

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE ARAW Awards this year? For one we are gearing up to be "Ready for the World!?" which is why we have gone interactive. Anything you need to find on the Araw Awards can be found at www.ads4export.com.

The site works on the concept of having ads worthy of export to international waters and thus the name ads4export. Everything one needs to know about the Araw Awards can be found in one courier package with different inserts for specific concerns. Rules and Regulations, Entry Forms, Categories and Entry Labels per category, or the whole Araw Awards kit as a zip file are downloadable and printable using Adobe Acrobat.

Additionally a new system of tallying will be introduced via the bar code system where scores are done with the help of wireless barcode readers. This method is expected to ensure the accuracy of scores given by the local and foreign judges. Judging, for the first time, will be done just a few days before the Congress on site in Cebu, which adds to excitement and anticipation of all entrants to the competition.

New categories have also been added and expanded while a few were folded into others to produce a roster that is more synchronized with those of Cannes and the Adfest. Craftsmanship Competitions have been separated from Product Categories to acknowledge the real heroes behind their production

This year's Araw Competitions will have no platinums. Instead, it gives birth to a new standard of creative excellence, the Best of Medium, henceforth to be called The Grand Araw Award.

Last day for submission of entries is on Sept. 19, 2005.

# MBTC-AXA forge deal

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE ANNOUNCED AN agreement with Metrobank to pursue a fresh vision for its bancassurance operation in the Philippines. Forged by its major shareholders—Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., and the Global AXA Group, the world's number one life insurer according to 2004 Fortune 500 Magazine, the new vision is aligned with Philippine Axa Life's goal to achieve aggressive growth. Philippine AXA Life's bancassurance operation has been recognized as the pioneering model in the country today.

"A fresh approach to focusing on customers through the use of sophisticated technology based in the branches to support the delivery of professional financial planning will ensure customers receive the best guidance on meeting their future financial dreams," said AXA Asia Pacific Pacific Holdings group chief executive Les Owen.

MBTC committed to support Phil. Axa Life's bancassurance channel by providing institutionalized leads and valuable corporate business referrals. On the other hand. the AXA Group will continue to transfer "best in class" technology and processes practiced by AXA as best in the region; especially in terms of IT and customer service.

The implementation of a "Regional Blueprint" containing the best practices from around the world, has already provided a successful experience in this business line. In AXA Indonesia, the Philippine AXA bancassurance model will be replicated to further open up this important alternative source of providing financial protection for customers in fulfilling their future financial needs.

IAN FISH, head of of American Express Bank and marketing head Patty P. Henson RUDY ESPERAS

# Make your savings earn more

From page B2-1

The problem, however, was that most banks which managed trust funds for clients did not limit their investments to government securities and debt papers of blue chips but also engaged in speculative lending—such as to real estate companies—which later on succumbed to the currency turmoil.

But banks now welcome the exemption of the UITFs from certain rules like the single borrowers limit as well as the lending restrictions to directors, officers, stockholders and related interests (DOSRI) since the new product is supposed to be spun off from the bank proper.

Like CTFs, UITFs are not covered by a deposit insurance, but the BSP has tightened the rules that risks could be better managed to favor the investing public.

Under the new rules, the pooled funds can only be invested in investments that can easily be converted to cash, or tradable financial instruments like commercial papers of corporations.

AEBP mulled over opening a UITF with local equity issues as underlying securities, but decided to play it safe and stick mostly with securities issued by the government.

Based on figures from the Trust Officers Association of the Philippines, the banking sector's shift from CTFs to UITFs is taking time.

The fledgling UITF industry is estimated to have only P30 billion in outstanding investments compared to the P300 billion CTFs which must be phased out by October 2006.

TOAP says there is no easy system that can facilitate the standardized conversion of outstanding lending using the CTFs into UITFs. Some investors had put investments in CTFs for the long haul, to avail themselves of the tax exemption given to financial instruments with a maturity of five years or more.

Banks also need time to train their people to handle UITFs and for the clients to accept it as a new product.

The UITFs will also be limited to government securities because there is a thin market for commercial papers and very few issuances of corporate bonds in the country.

But for AEBP, the UITF is an idea whose time has come.

Fish says there is a lot of savings out there waiting to be harnessed into quality investments like the UITFs.

# Psychos, gorillas, and ... sales people

From page B2-4

specifically pertains to each segment's customer home owing and buying behavior. For example, for the A (or activities) data, profile each of your life stages segments on its member customers' hobbies, social activities, entertainment and leisure activities, community activities and shopping habits.

For the I (or interests) data, get each segment customers' family, home, community, recreation, food, and accomplishment interests (to mention just the more obvious of them). And for the O (or opinions) data, obtain each segment customers' opinions about themselves, social and community issues, politics, education, products, culture and the future.

In terms of customer database, all these mean that you should gather all the above segment profiler data so that each of the names in your database is now known to you in terms of family life stage, home owning and buying predisposition/practices, and AIOs. When you have all of these, then you can truly say that you're into database marketing and it is your database that is now your marketplace.

## Guerrilla strategies

Q: We once read in your column your partitioning the life insurance market into two broad segments (of the uninsured and the insured). The uninsured segment had the much larger population size of a little over 80 percent. My life insurance company wants to penetrate this segment but we are just a medium-sized company and do not have the resources to support a large-scale market entry strategy. Can you tell us what guerrilla marketing strategies we can use to accomplish our goal of penetrating the uninsured market segment?

A: As you know, guerrilla marketing is essentially small-scale marketing. That basically translates into niche marketing, and to have a focus and direction, niche marketing starts with segmenting a market segment (such as the uninsured segment) into profitable niches.

For example, why not segment the uninsured population into readily accessible geographical segments like the uninsured of Manila, Quezon City, Makati, Parañaque, and so on. Then identify the niches in each geographical segment like among the Manila uninsured, the uninsured store sales clerks, police and military, nurses and midwives, messengers, drivers, and so on.

Next, craft with the assistance of your sales and finance people your guerrilla marketing program for each niche. Most guerrilla marketing strategies are direct marketing and direct response advertising and promo maneuvers. Consult the expert here and read for the specific guerrilla marketing tools to use, Levinson's classic book, "Guerilla Marketing."

## Closing a sale

Q: You once wrote about how super salesmen close a sale, on the average, on their sixth sales call. I think you were trying to extol the virtue of persistence and continuous follow-up. But isn't there in a continuous follow-up, a negative effect that we should also guard against?

A: When selling authorities and experts generalize about "rules of the selling game" or "immutable laws of selling," this is actually more for effect and stress than for making universal pronouncements. There are very few "universals." And one of these says: "In everything, there is a positive and a negative." So let's answer your question by diagnosing when the practice of continuous follow-up becomes more negative than positive and vice versa.

First, distinguish between two selling situations: one where there is more than one participant in the decision to buy, and the other where there is only one. In the first situation which is typical of a B2B setting, there may be an initiator of the buying process such as the purchasing engineer, and then there's a technical person or committee to evaluate how the sales proposal satisfies the technical specs, a legal counsel or committee to assess how the proposal meets the legal requirements, the end-user or end-user group who wants to be heard about their opinions, and the final decision maker who will sign the contract and payment check. Here selling is a sequential process.

Continuous follow-up relates to following up where in the sequence of decision-makers the sales proposal has succeeded reaching and what its status is like in that stage of the sequence. This is a standard continuous follow-up procedure that has minimal negative aspects.

The continuous follow-up that has the risk of generating more negatives than positives is where it is applied on one and the same decision-maker in any one of the stages in the preceding sequence or on a consumer who is the buyer, final decision maker and end user all at the same time. Here, the first follow-up which is the second sales call often results in no alienation especially when the first call was obviously ill-timed like when the customer or consumer was having a bad day. The succeeding follow-ups should be sensitively read analogously. In other words, ask: "Was there any reason by way of the customer's or consumer's verbal as well as non-verbal responses that the next follow-up would be more negatively than positively received?" If so, then creatively transform the next follow-up.

One super sales rep we know said he did this as follows: "I home-worked the other member of the evaluating technical team or the consumer's family member who's close to her, and when I learned that this other team member or family member won't mind being asked, then I directed my next follow-up on him or her."

Also, remember that the sixth sales call that closed the deal is an average. If that average is also the median figure, then you know that 50 percent of all sales calls of these super salesmen were closed on the sixth or LESS than the sixth sales call, and the other 50 percent were closed on the sixth or MORE than the sixth sales call. So learn from the less as well as the more.

## Follow-up calls

You've got to know that all six follow up "calls" don't have to be phone calls or physical visits. You can follow up with an e-mail, a text message, a letter, a fax or an intermediary, i.e. a colleague or friend of your prospect who can put in a good word for you.

And when you write your e-mail or letter, try a creative opening line that will get your prospects attention and at least get him or her to start reading. That's why we put Psychos (short for psychographics), Gorillas (sounds like guerrilla for guerrilla marketing) and sales people ... sounds like ... well, sales people. If we had started with something geek-sounding like, pyschographics, half of you wouldn't have started to read this column.

Anyway, for learning specific follow-up techniques we humbly suggest you read Todd Duncan's "High Trust Selling" or for Filipino examples of persistence and how they follow up, try the Junior MRx-er's book, "S4: Success Secrets of the Sales Superstars."

*Send questions to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!*

---

# Squeezing profits out of fruits

FILIPINOS EVERYWHERE HAVE ALWAYS had a passion for fruit.

Whether sliced, diced, grated, squeezed and blended, the myriad ways to enjoy delicious fruit flavors never seems to end. And because fruits are naturally healthy and filled with health giving nutrients, the popularity of fruits has risen several notches higher in a world that has increasingly become health-conscious.

Enter Fruit Magic, a company that has for 12 years now, turned the passion for fruits into a business success. Pioneering the juicing industry as the leading source of fresh fruit juices and concoctions in the country, Fruit Magic introduced a more exciting way of enjoying smoothies, refreshing shakes and nutritious juices for health lovers everywhere.

"The magic is in the fruit," states Dr. Alan Escalona, CEO of Fruit Magic. "Both the World Health Organization and the National Cancer Institute have recommended that consuming 5 to 9 colorful fruits each day is the key towards maintaining good health, increasing energy levels and protecting the body against aging, heart disease and the risk of cancer."

Escalona explains this philosophy is backed by medical findings that deeply hued or colorful fruits provide a wide range of vitamins, minerals, fiber and phytochemicals that the body needs each day.

"We did not reinvent the enjoyment of fruit that all Filipinos love. But we made it a more fun experience, where a person can fully explore the flavors and experiment on combinations that will quench their thirst while helping them maintain a good, healthy diet," says Escalona.

Fruit Magic has evolved into a virtual fruit haven for health and fitness buffs everywhere. Here customers can enjoy an array of fresh fruits that can be transformed into blended or squeezed all-natural fruit beverages that's perfect for snacks and meals.

Tasting success, the company refined its service techniques and explored new ways to offer healthy and natural alternatives to soft drinks and other artificially made beverages. This gave birth to the concept of fruzion, which was a mix of different kinds of fruits blended together into an exciting shake concoction.

DR. ALAN Escalona, CEO of Fruit Magic

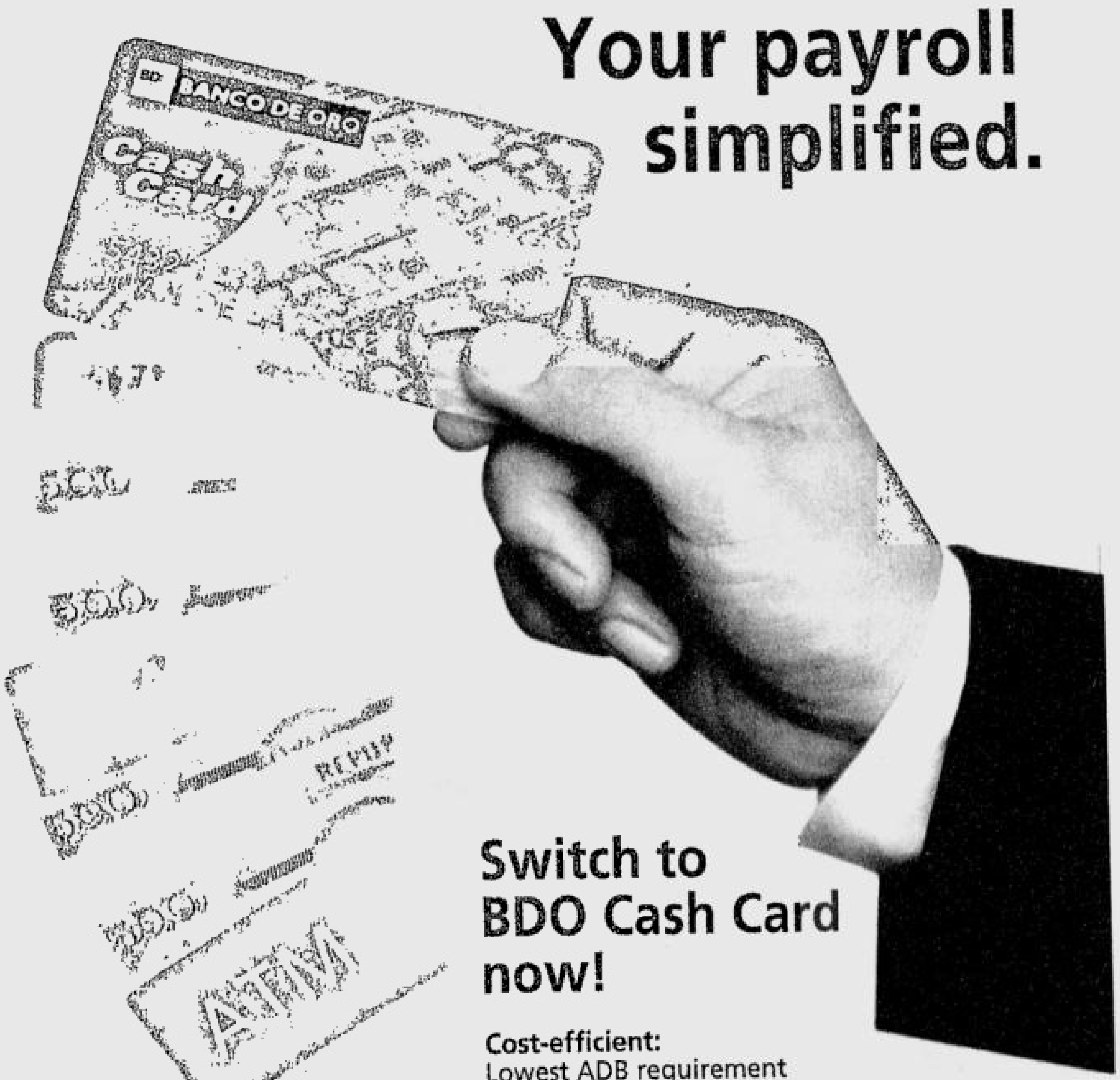
Escalona also revealed that the company is now in transition from a mere fruit juice service outlet into a mainstream fresh fruit juice brand. Among its new products are the bottled soy milk and green tea variants, which complemented the pure nectars, fruzion smoothies and shakes offered by the store.

"As a juice brand, Fruit Magic can now actively compete with established beverage brand in the market. And because we offer the better alternative that will help one achieve a healthier lifestyle, we know that our brand is destined for success," adds Escalona.

Like squeezing the nectar from the freshest fruit, Fruit Magic blended innovation, creativity and fruit savvy into a form of "business fruzion" of its own, replicating its success into 35 company-owned outlets scattered in the National Capital Region and two in Cebu City. The new Fruit Magic Franchise Corp. was also recently established to answer to the clamor from clients and prospective business partners who have recognized the extremely viable franchising potential of the company.

Now Fruit Magic forges on with its vision of introducing better and better ways to achieving a healthy body and a healthy life, one spellbinding sip at a time.

*For inquiries, call 3646927, 3643621, fax 3662934 or visit www.fruitmagic.com.ph.*



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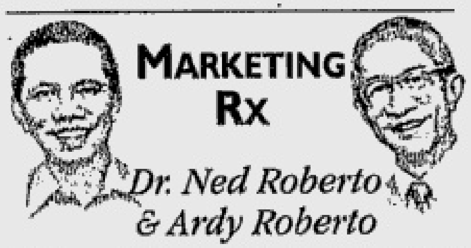

**MARKETING Rx**

*Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto*

Q: WE'RE IN THE REAL PROPERTY BUSINESS. We like your idea of sourcing our business growth from our existing customer base. And you said we should start by segmenting our current customer base. What is the best way for us to find behavioral and psychographic segments in our customer base? This is new to us, but we want to grow our business. (We have no choice!)

A: For your behavioral segments, we've previously written about locating the stage in your customer's family life cycle when it's most or more predisposed in home buying, changing or upgrading housing, and going into multiple home ownership. Based on this insight, we prescribed that a real property developer can most profitably segment its existing customer base by their family life cycle stages and profile each life stage segment by its home owning and buying predisposition and practices.

What is new for us in your question is psychographic segmentation. Let's understand first what psychographic segmentation means.

As a marketing strategy, it was William Wells, market research director of Leo Burnett in Chicago in the '70s and '80s, who operationalized psychographic segmentation as "lifestyle" segmentation. To Wells, lifestyle is a consumer's "pattern of living as expressed in that consumer's "AIOs" or activities, interests and opinions." Psychographic and lifestyle segmentation research then came to be known as AIO segmentation research.

So what AIO segmentation can you do with your existing customer database?

Start with your customer segmentation by family life cycle stages and each life stage segment's home owning and buying predisposition and practices. Then further profile each of these segments by each segment's customer AIO data. Choose those AIO data that

PSYCHOS/ B2-3

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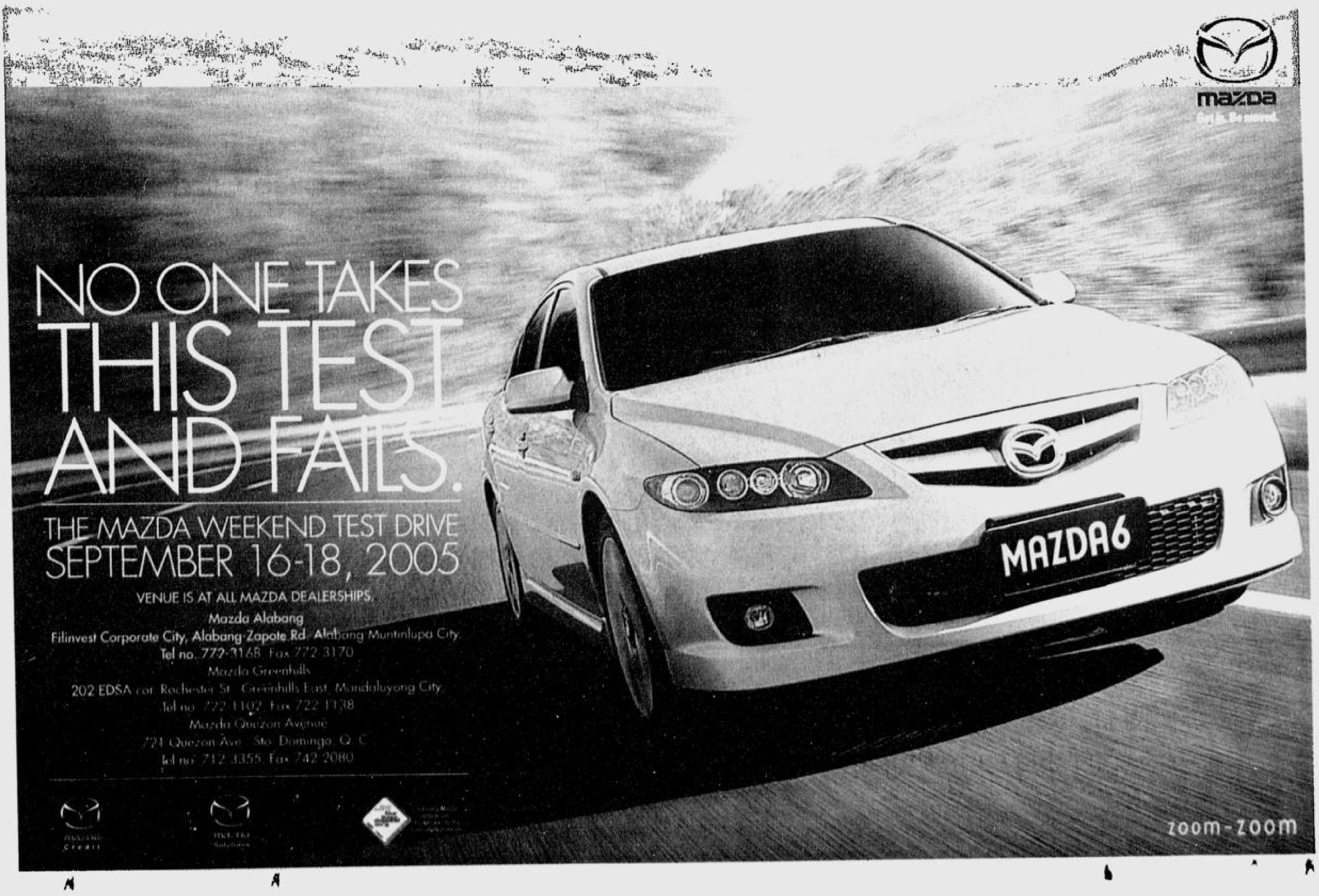

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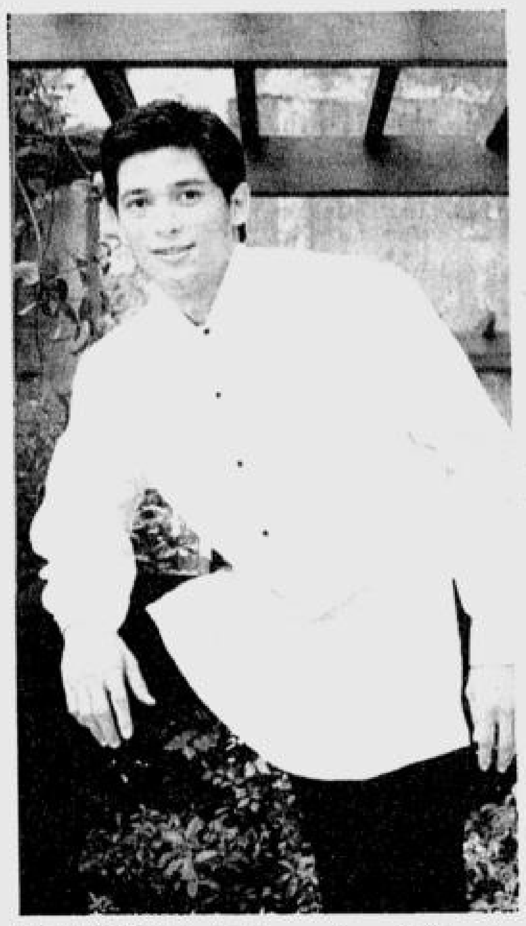
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ● TUESDAY FITNESS ● WEDNESDAY 2BU ● THURSDAY FOOD ● FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

# Barong barges into the future

Reviving old patterns while introducing new colors, layers and silhouettes, designer Barge Ramos tests the limits of the Pinoy male fashion staple

**Text by Alex Y. Vergara**
**Photos by Chito Vecina**


**TRADITIONAL** piña barong is embellished with tassels made of braided piña strands.

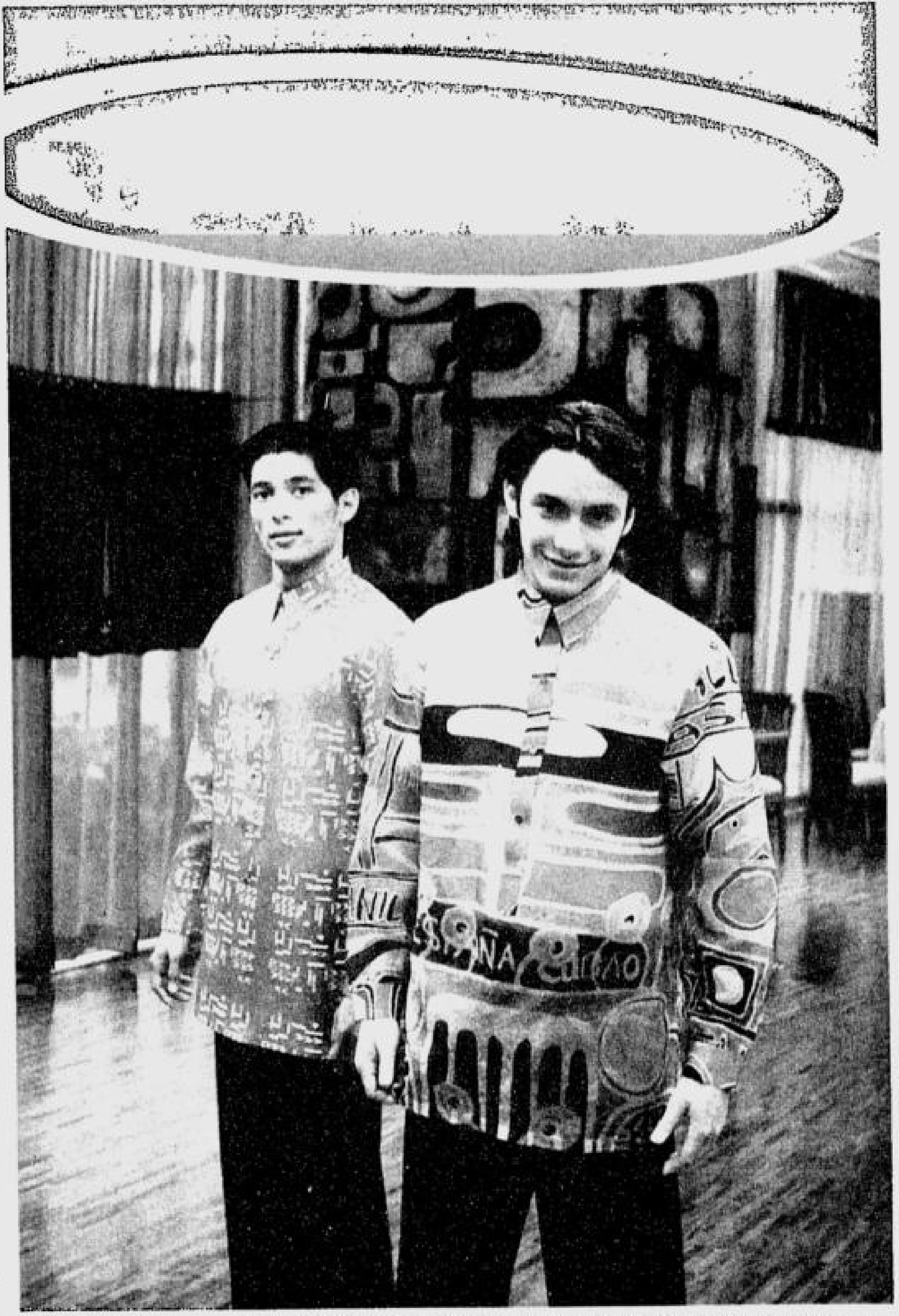
ONE CAN ONLY DO SO much with the traditional embroidered barong without desecrating it, says Barge Ramos. But this hasn't stopped the seasoned designer from pressing on in his quest to reinvent the Filipino formal wear.

Ramos began breaking grounds in 1985 with a barong exhibit at the old Ayala Museum. Veering away from embroidered floral and geometric prints that were the norm during those days, he introduced, and later improved on, such techniques as hand-painting and photo silk-screening ethnic patterns on piña and *jusi*.

Through the years, Ramos has also perfected the process of dyeing and combining handwoven fabrics, such as piña, with abaca. He further tweaked the barong by incorporating new and untried fibers such as maguey.

Dyeing, by the way, is a painstaking process. As if dyeing *jusi* isn't difficult enough, designers like Ramos have to first "degum" the fabric (a byproduct of silk) by soaking the stuff in boiling water. Only after the fabric's chemicals have been dissolved can they

BARONG/ C2


**POP GOES** the barong. Rafael (right) wears a *jusi* number featuring a hand-painted jeepney, while Mikey is in an ethnic-inspired *jusi* piece in bold aqua.

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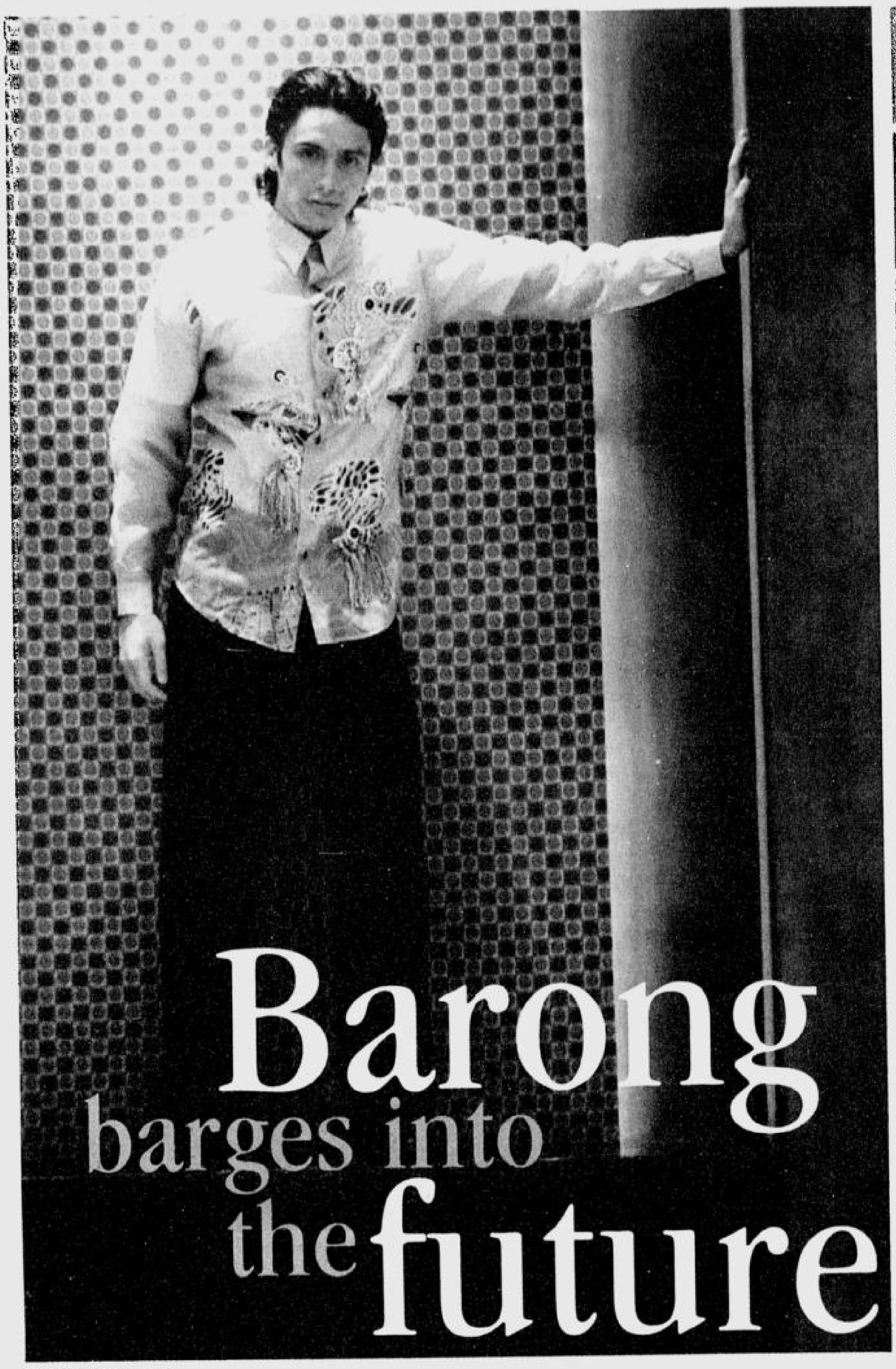
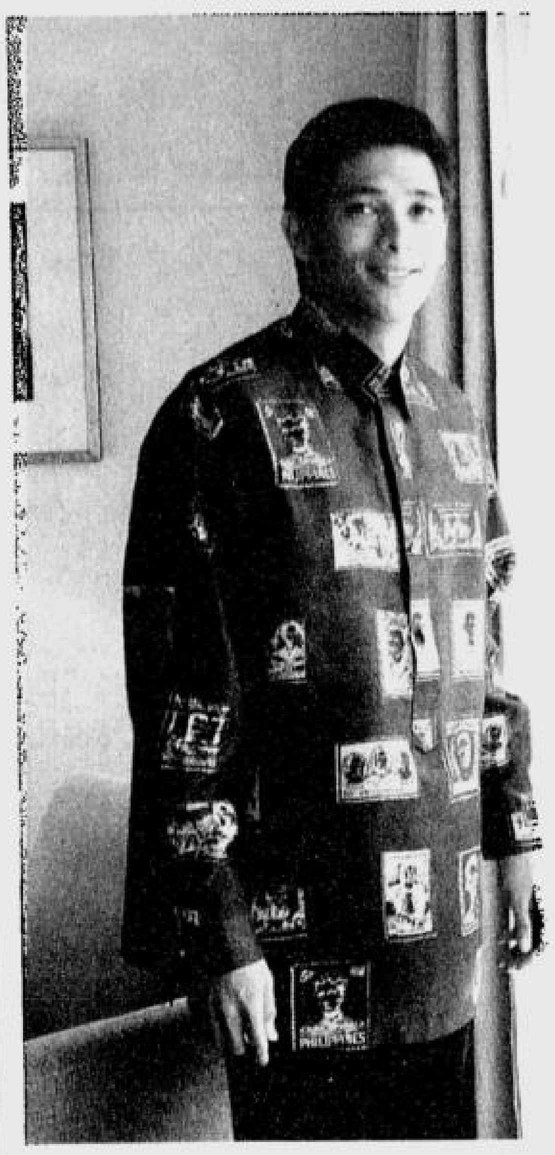
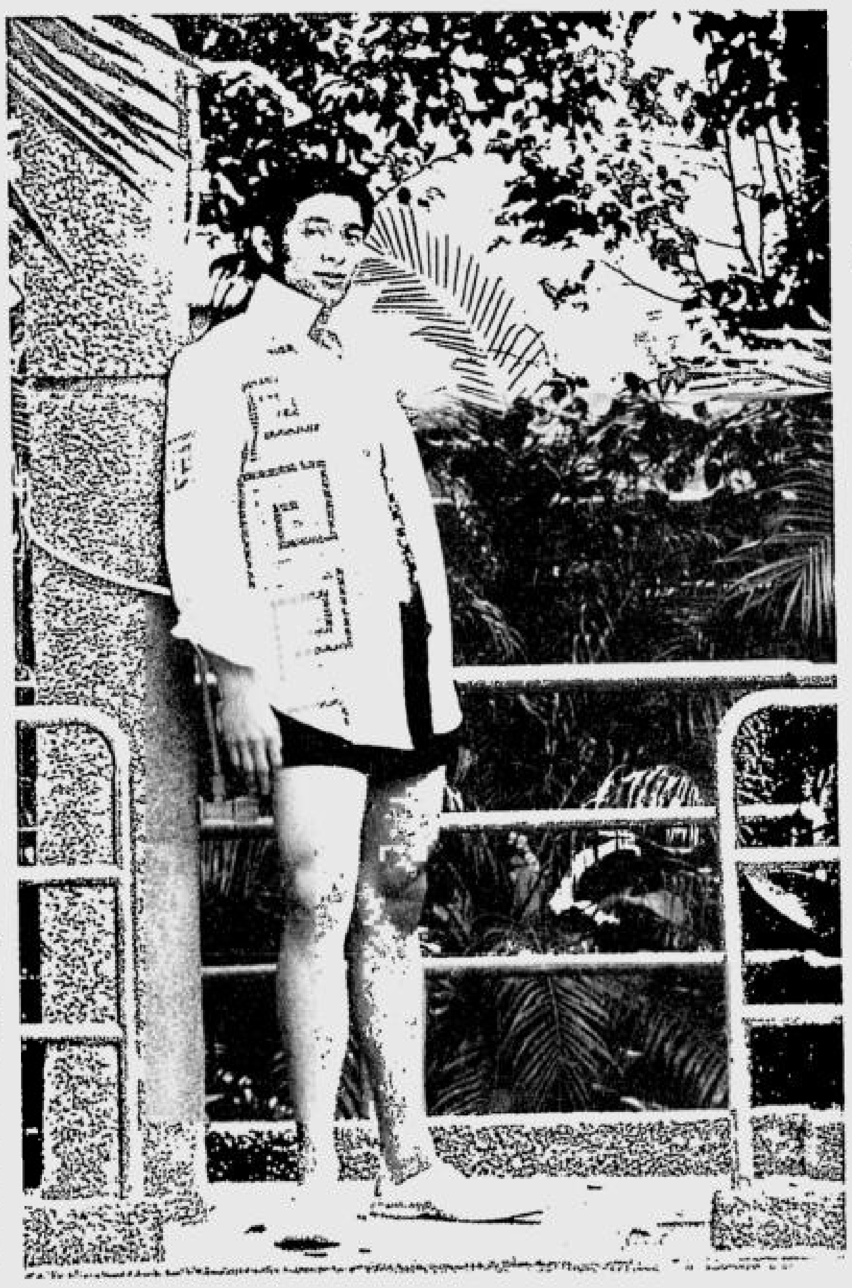


# Barong barges into the future

GREEN *jusi* number combines elements such as dyeing, photo silk-screening and appliqués.





**DARK-BLUE** number is spruced up with photo silk-screened images of old Philippine stamps (left). By combining antique piña with silk inserts, Ramos gives the barong a fresh twist (above). Orange flatters the Filipino's brown complexion. This *jusi* piece is dyed and photo silk-screened (right).

**GEOMETRIC** patterns on a barong are here to stay.

CLOTHES:
BARGE RAMOS (TEL. 5230377)
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SHOES: BRIAN TENORIO
MODELS: MIKEY CAPELLAN
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TO KIT TRAJANO

From page C1

embark on the dyeing process.

"I've also done Tingguian, Tinalak and *anting-anting* (amulet) patterns using subtle color palettes," he says.

It was only a matter of time before Ramos drew inspiration from popular images such as stamps, jeepneys and the country's rich flora and fauna. Although the designer is not known to wear his nationalism on his sleeves, his interest in promoting new ways of treating the barong stemmed from an equally noble pursuit.

## Endangered patterns

"In the course of my research years ago," he says, "I learned that certain ethnographic patterns that were once endemic in the Philippines were in danger of disappearing for good. I decided to reproduce some of these patterns with the barong as my canvas."

Although Filipinos by and large are still traditional when it comes to many things (including their barongs), there has been a growing number of straight men who prefer avant-garde barongs for special occasions, including their weddings. These are guys who

---

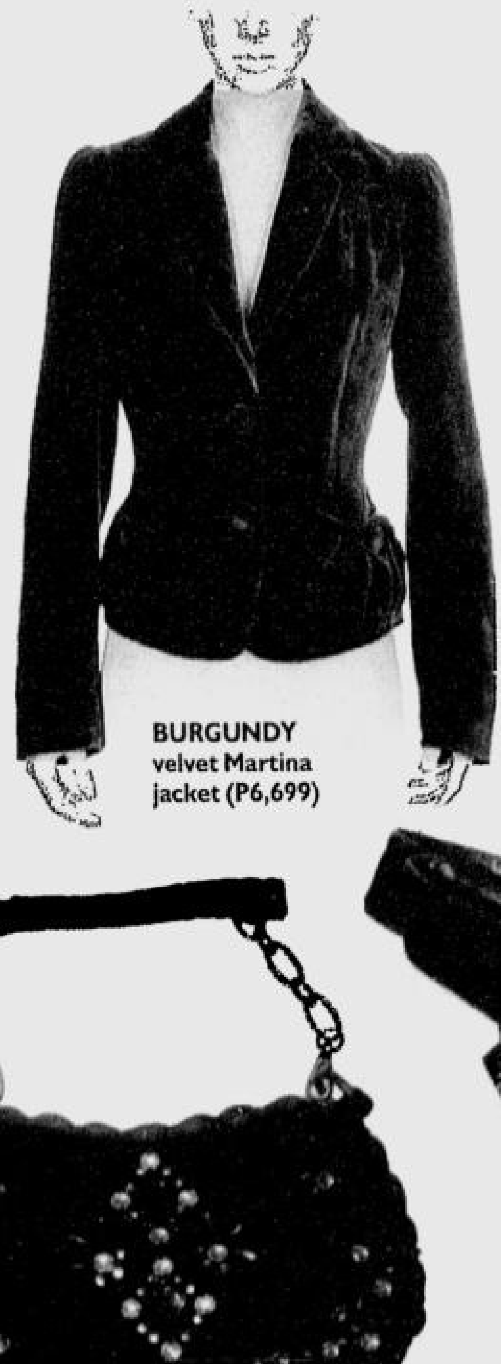
*Window shopping*

# Autumn enchantment

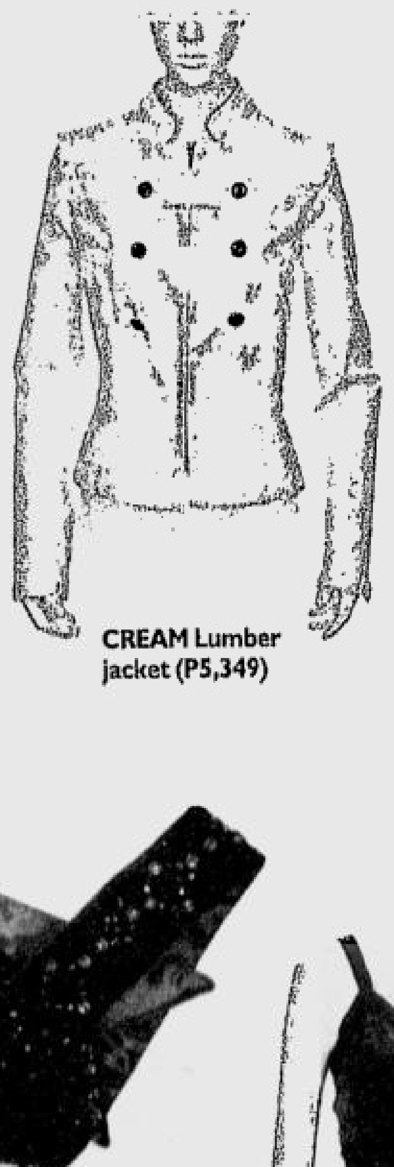
**By Beia Formoso and Shirley Oh**
*Contributors*

WHEN glancing at the window displays of Mango, you can make believe that you are in a foreign country where the autumn leaves are starting to fall and the winds are getting chillier. It seems that Mango is the only brand keeping abreast with the latest fashion trends found in all the foreign collections and magazines: velvet textures in rich dark hues like deep red, burgundy, green, purple and black; and Victorian-inspired pieces filled with ruffles and buttons. Yes, the elegance and the sophistication of Mango's Fall/Winter collection will have you wishing that temperatures would drop, too, in our little archipelago.

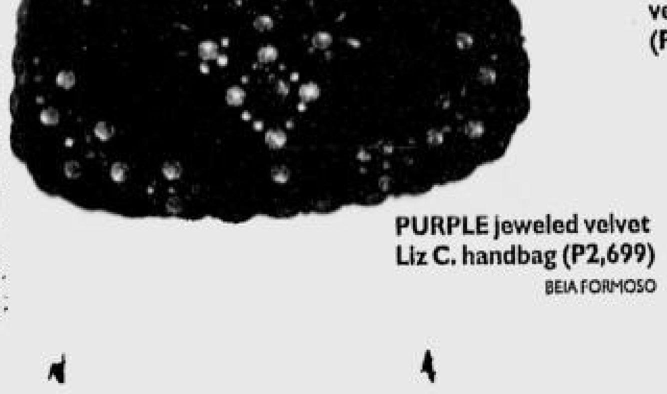
*All clothes and accessories from Mango. Mango is at Gateway Mall, Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Rockwell Power Plant, and Glorietta 3, Ayala Center. Special thanks to Ayie Gualberto.*



**BURGUNDY** velvet Martina jacket (P6,699)

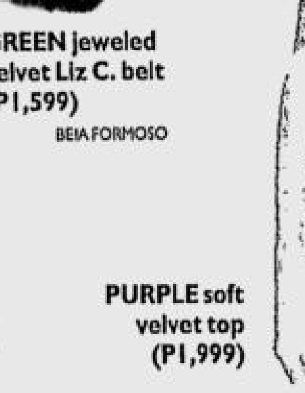


**CREAM** Lumber jacket (P5,349)



**PURPLE** jeweled velvet Liz C. handbag (P2,699)

BEIA FORMOSO



**GREEN** jeweled velvet Liz C. belt (P1,599)

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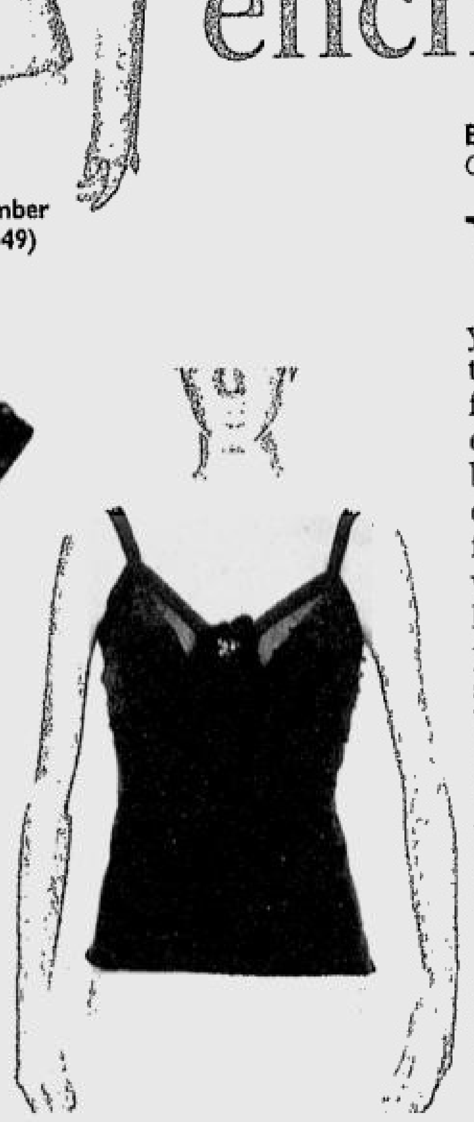
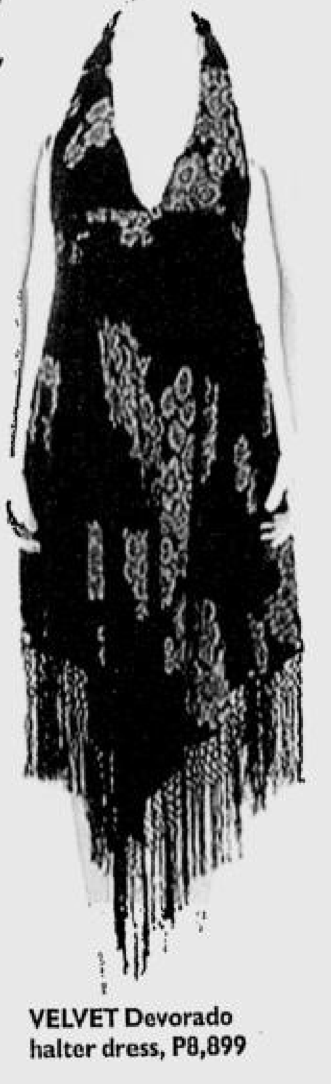


**PURPLE** soft velvet top (P1,999)



**VELVET** Devorado halter dress, P8,899

desire to look different from their dads and granddads, says Ramos.

If you want to try something new, but feel a bit unsure, it's best to start with simple photo silk-screened designs such as small *ikat* patterns in white over an ecru background, says the designer.

"The challenge to designers like us," he adds, "is to be able to incorporate various aspects from other cultures in the barong without disregarding certain traditions that Filipinos hold dear."

Ramos will further push such traditions to the limits when he holds a barong exhibit sometime next month in Yokohama, Japan.

The event, which will also showcase a collection of Philippine dolls, coincides with joint celebration of the 40th year of Manila and Yokohama as sister cities.

The event is a prelude to a fashion show and Santacruzan early next year featuring Filipino designers. For his part, Ramos plans to come up with updated and improved versions of his stylized barongs.

### Three-dimensional effect

Apart from using bold colors such as orange, turquoise and lime as backdrops for his printed pieces, some of the images found in his barongs are now "layered" and adorned with appliqué for a three-dimensional effect. He also makes use of vintage fabrics, which he updates with new forms of embellishment. One such labor-intensive piece, for instance, is spruced up with tassels made of braided piña.

Despite being open to new and radical approaches to redefine the barong, Ramos draws the line at beadwork. He will not use sequins or glittery stones on his barongs. He is willing to concede to materials such as wooden beads or mother of pearl, but nothing shiny or glittering, please. There's definitely no room on the Philippine barong for Las Vegas.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

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# The resort life at Anvaya Cove

Ayala Land Inc., the country's premier real-estate developer, is finally bringing world-class resort-style living in the Philippines with the development of its first-ever leisure community north of Metro Manila. It will all happen in Anvaya Cove, a 320-hectare property in Morong, Bataan that embraces nature, featuring a wide beachfront and seemingly endless views of mountain and sea.

The Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club will serve as the center of the enviable resort lifestyle to be created through mood-setting archi service comparable to those in top resorts and leisure communities abroad.

The whole Anvaya Cove development will contain structures that illustrate what Ayala Land considers as tropical Asian architecture, borne from the concepts and guidance of renowned local architectural firm Leandro V. Locsin & Partners. The Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club pavilion will exemplify this unique architectural design in a signature quarter-arched roof with interesting corner details.

The Beach and Nature Club not only embodies the physical vision for the Anvaya Cove community, but the emotional and mental aspects as well, with the numerous activities and amenities that will serve to bring families together in true bonding moments. The Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club comprises various zones in its complex that maximize interaction with its water and land components. At sea, there will be an ideal beach area that enhances the natural state of the shores of Subic Bay. A Water Sports Pavilion will manage popular, active water sports activities such as jet skiing and kayaking. The Pawikan Bar and Grille, together with charming beach cabanas, will provide a venue for families and friends to get together over food, drinks and entertainment. An architectural feature, a lookout tower, will also provide endless opportunities to take in the breathtaking views surrounding Anvaya Cove.

More comfortable indoor activities could also be experienced at the Main Pavilion of the club. As in any other resort clubhouse, there are concierge services and numerous dining experiences such as at the Bamboo Cafe. A special Wine Room is an exclusive venue for top VIPs and guests. Nearby is a pool complex for adults and children alike, with a breathtaking infinity-edge feature. For the utmost in relaxation, a spa area set naturally within its surrounding beach and tree areas will also be developed, comparable to the trendy massage salas only experienced in expensive resorts in other Asian countries.

For adventures on land, adjacent to the Beach and Nature Club is the Recreational Lagoon Area for fishing, boating, and even radio-controlled boat racing. A vast expanse of grass and softly rolling terrain called the Great Lawn will also provide the perfect venue for picnics and family gatherings, and more active pastimes such as frisbee throwing, kite flying, or playing with radio-controlled aircrafts.

Most vital to the genuine resort-quality experience at Anvaya Cove is the topnotch service Ayala Land aims to deliver. This comes naturally to a company that is known for its incomparable property management. Apart from standard concierge services, the Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club will provide the extra mile in making club members and guests experience not only relaxation and comfort, but a deeper and more meaningful interaction with nature as well through guided tours and assisted explorations of such natural characteristics of the site as shallow marine ecosystems and forest trails.

All these aspects of the Anvaya Cove experience begin with a share in the Beach and Nature Club. This is also the ticket to a more lasting experience of the development and its rich environment through a residential lot in one of Anvaya Cove's many neighborhoods that are set to rise and complete the community. With it, families will even get to enjoy this resort lifestyle all year round.

To learn more about the resort lifestyle that will be made available by Ayala Land in the near future, call (632) 892-3333 , e-mail anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.anvayacove.com.

ADVT.

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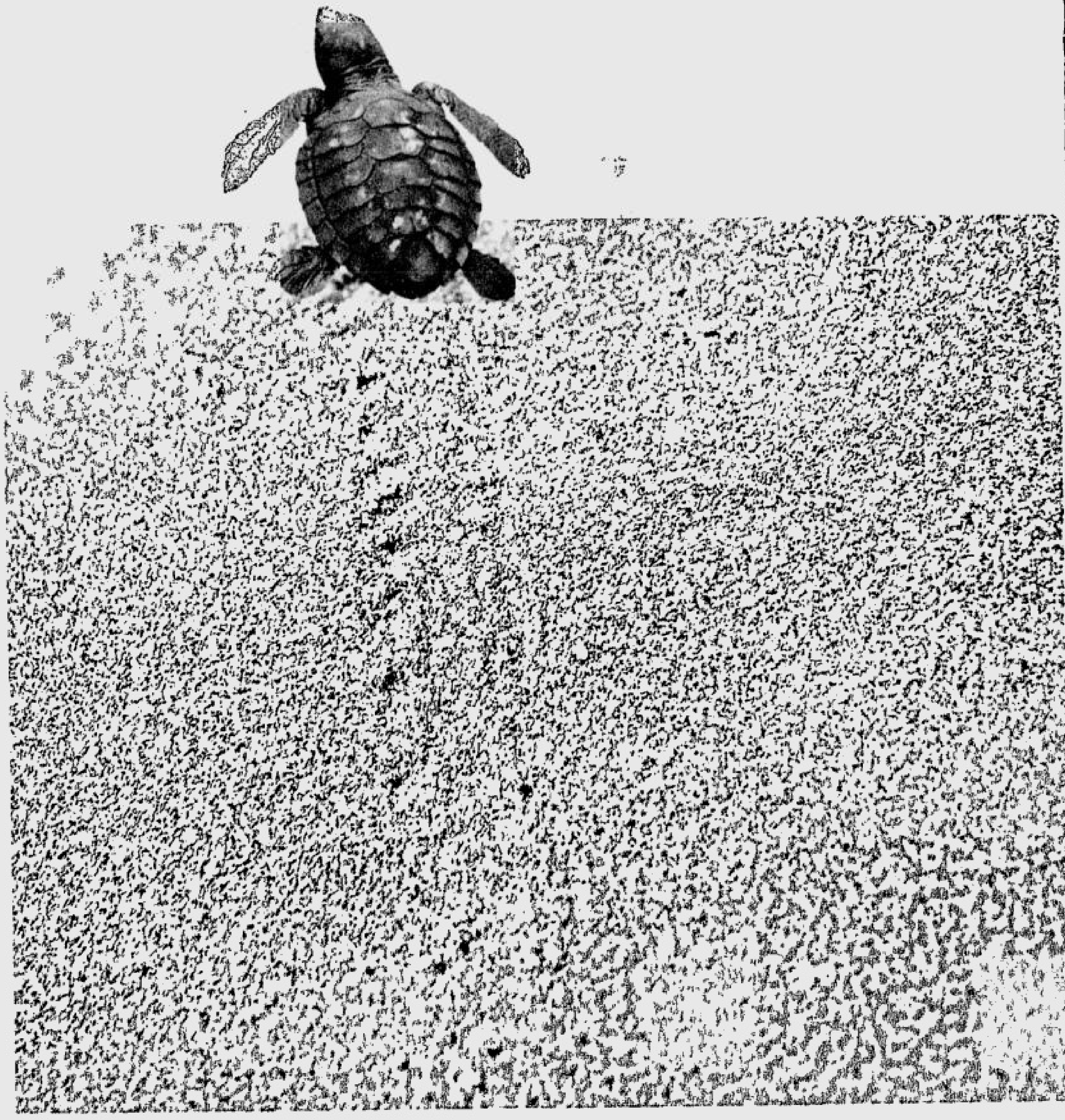
*When I saw my daughter's eyes widen at the sight of the baby pawikan, I realized that life's biggest event was in the moment! That look was priceless and I was changed forever.*



Experiences made extraordinary. Anvaya Cove is a sanctuary to weary city folks as it is to some animals unique to this area. Annually, *pawikan* hatchlings find their way back to the shore while migrating Mallard ducks fly inland to seek respite from the cold season.

Anvaya Cove draws your attention to things that truly matter — giving time for recreation, reflection and relaxation.

In the heart of this enviable, exclusive leisure community is the Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club — a members-only gathering place amidst spectacular lagoon landscaping — for wining, dining and unwinding. Where the recreational amenities provide opportunities for bonding and unique experiences that all family members can share.

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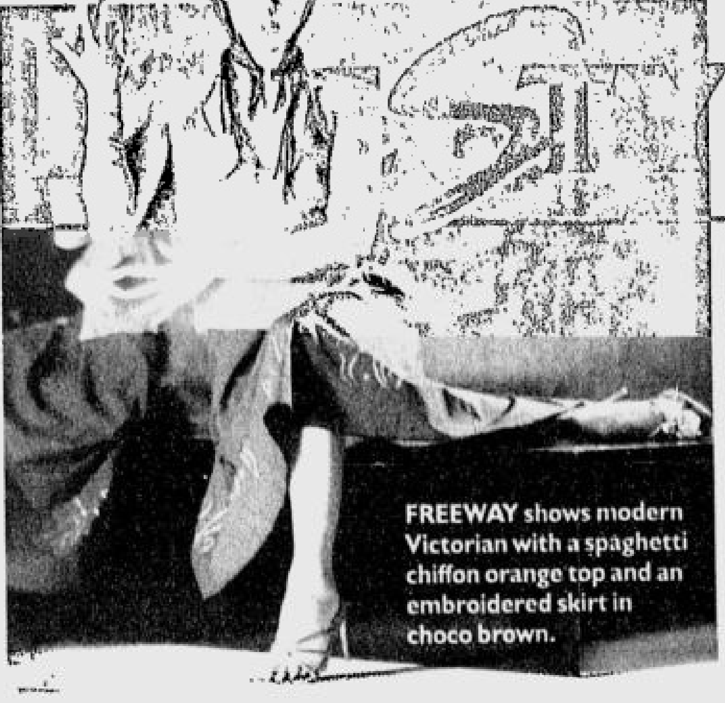
See posters for details.

Cindy Kurleto hits the fashion Freeway with a fresh collection



**FREEWAY** shows modern Victorian with a spaghetti chiffon orange top and an embroidered skirt in choco brown.

# Free as a bird

By Cheche V. Moral

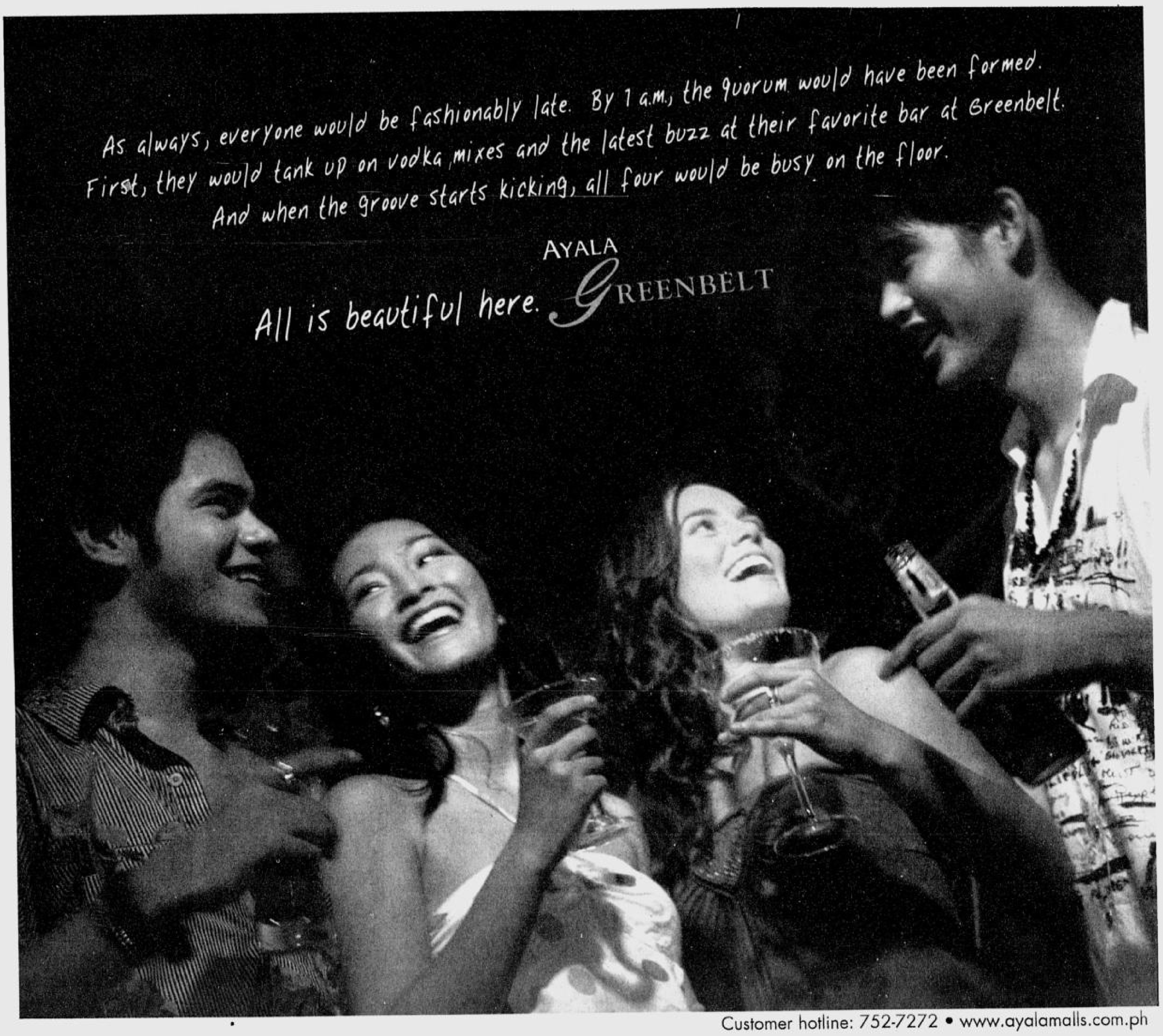
IN THE FACE OF several fashion magazines and sources heralding what's hot, looking in-the-moment has never been easier for the girl on the street and the wannabe fashionista.

Freeway lives up to its name by always turning out up-to-the-moment clothes and accessories for the young fashionistas on a budget.

In Freeway's new collection, army styles go functional, with cropped jackets frolicking with multi-pocket pants and miniskirts.

Black is resurrected in a variety

FREE/ D4



As always, everyone would be fashionably late. By 1 a.m., the quorum would have been formed.
First, they would tank up on vodka mixes and the latest buzz at their favorite bar at Greenbelt.
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**OJ 7210** P 19,890
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- HP Photoret 3 / HP Photoret 4 (with optional 6-ink colour printing)
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- Multi-slot memory card reader
- Optional BLUETOOTH connectivity (via bluetooth adapter)

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2. To avail of the promotion, consumers need to purchase any of the following printers: DJ5740, DJ6540, OJ4255, OJ5510, PSC2355, OJ7210, PS325, PS7450, PS8450 from any participating HP reseller
3. Consumers get a free gym bag with a purchase of either the DJ5740, DJ6540, OJ7210 or PS8450. The Gym bag will be bundled with the printer box and can be availed of at the time of purchase.
4. Consumers get either a free massage session or a 2 week trial membership from Fitness First with the purchase of either the OJ4255, OJ5510, PSC2355, OJ7210, PS325, PS7450, PS8450. Consumers are only entitled to choose either the free massage session worth or the free 2 week trial membership.
5. Consumers need to present a duly filled up sticker/info sheet, cut-out from the printer box along with the sales invoice and a valid ID to any Fitness First Club (Ayala, Fort, Ortigas, Libis, Robinson's Metro East, Robinson's Place Manila, Alabang, Greenhills, ABS-CBN, and Ayala Center Cebu) to avail of the free 2 week trial membership or free massage.
a. Fitness First will issue a two week trial membership coupon to the consumer upon presentation of required documents.
b. The two week trial membership will expire 14 days after first usage
c. The free massage can be availed only upon prior appointment with any Fitness First branch.
6. This promotion can not to be used in conjunction with other running HP promotions

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LAMCO

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3101, Series of 2005

**HOTSHOTS** on a roll. Paulo Alcazaren, editor in chief of My Home and BluPrint; Samie Lim, Blims president; Carrie Lim, Blims EVP; and Thai Ambassador Asha Dvitiyananda

**SARI** Yap, Mega Magazines and Publications, Inc. president and CEO; Donnie Tantoco, Shopwise president; and Rowena Tomeldan, VP for operations, Ayala Malls

**THAI** designer Eggarat Wongcharit checks out one of the vignettes.

**US-BASED** top architect Joseph Palafox

**ARCHITECT** Ike Madamba of Venvi Development Corp.

**ARCHITECT** Jonathan Gan and Blims general manager for business development Eric Lim

# Enjoying furniture designs, bathing products, and Spanish wines

**WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH**

*Maurice Arcache*

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

**B**REEZING BY BLIMS FINE furniture, *moi* stopped, looked and was really impressed with this latest and never-before-seen furniture collection, simply called Fusiontrends.

No wonder, *palanggas*, the setup was part of an exhibit by Blims with the Philippine School of Interior Design, (PSID), and Mega Magazine and Publications Inc. (MMPI).

In the exhibit, eight creatively designed vignettes showed the traditional, modern and conventional-eclectic furniture. The magazines of MMPI were the inspiration for the designs.

The exhibit had a typical bedroom, lanai, entertainment center, home office, den, boudoir or dining room from the readers of Mega, Meg, Lifestyle Asia, My Home, Me, Appetite, Manual and Blu Print magazines.

Hotshots from the design world and furniture industry were there for the grand opening night, natch.

Leading the ceremonial ribbon-cutting were Thai Ambassador **Asha Dvitiyananda**; **Carrie Lim**, Blims' executive vice president; **Kulthorn Silapabanleng**, CEO of Scandinavian Living; **Angelo Valenton**, GM of Philips Electronics Phils.; **Sari Yap**, president and CEO of MMPI; **Paulo Alcazaren**, editor in chief of My Home and Blu Print Magazines; and **Eggarat Wongcharit**, designer of Crafactor.

**Samie Lim**, the president of Blims, was busy-busy showing the vignettes to special guests who included young Shopwise president **Donnie Tantoco**; US-based architect **Joseph Palafox**; former Quezon City Mayor **Mel Mathay**; **Rowena Tomeldan**, VP for operations of the Ayala Malls; brothers **Carlos** and **Arturo Hubilla** of Hubilla Design; designer **Leo Almeria**; property developer **Ike Madamba**; **Manuel Siggaoat** of Manel's, plus other hot names from business, fashion, design and property development, *palanggas*.

But what really had the guests' complete attention was Fusiontrends' eye-catching, striking avant-garde conversation pieces such as: the Dancing Belly, Floating Fancy, Honeydew Lounge, Rubik's Side Table, Bluetooth Lounge Chair, Nonna Lounge, Ottoman, Rolly Polly Rocker, Kimono Chair and the far-out Plasma Lounge, said to be the world's thinnest chair.

## Art of bathing

The art of bathing dates back to ancient times when Cleopatra and the other queens of the East enjoyed the pleasure of having their bodies treated to the pampering benefits of milk, honey and rose petals, *palanggas*.

Today we have mud baths, chocolate-wrap therapy and an awesome array of bath and body products. This could be gleaned from the recent ladies' tea parties organized by Rustan's.

Hot brands such as Thierry Mugler's Innocent, Dior, L'Occitane, Apivita and Phyto were sampled by our town's cool fashionable women eager for pampering treats.

The tea parties were hosted by four women of style: **Frannie Jacinto**, **Mia Borromeo**, **Maryann Lumen** and **Chian Callaghan**. Their excited guests included **Marivic Vasquez**, **Marilen Espiritu**, **Raquel Garcia**, **Jojo Zabarte**, **Lulu Tan Gan**, **Melissa Martel**, **Karen Santos** and **Carla Tengco**.

"This Essenses Tea happening series is Rustan's way of promoting wellness and well-being to women by providing a sanctuary in which its global brands can be experienced," explained **Annie Ringor** of Bridges@com. Creative Ideas and Strategies.

Okay, gals, check this out—every month, tea parties and workshops are held based on different themes.

In September, all you brides-to-be or bride wannabe's or other women just eager to recapture that "bridal glow" are invited to bridal showers, which will feature workshops on various bridal topics.

Interested about Essenses' tea parties? Call **Toni Abad** at 0917-7916950. She'll give you the hot lowdown, *palanggas*.

## Up in Armas

Any happening that can draw such business hotshots as **Rante Aguila**, Asian Spirit's CEO **Noel Oñate**, **Tony Garcia**, **Greggy Araneta**, **Koncoy Tuason**, **Cesar Campos**, **Ed Velarde** and **Henry Zabarte** must be a pretty major affair, *palanggas*.

After all, when it comes to great wine and authentic and yummy Spanish food, nobody does it better and consistently like Casa Armas.

In "Baila a Guerra de Vino," the popular Taberna de Casa Armas heated up the Spanish fever with its one of a kind La Rioja Wines!

The guests went into a wine frenzy as every corner of the Taberna transported everyone back to the authentic Spanish Rioja festival.

A fantastic performance by the Arriba Band got the crowd on a roll, while the Rioja wine, by Ramon Bilbao, was more than what the guests could ask for.

Known to be the best "Español" restaurant here in the Philippines, Casa Armas uses authentic ingredients for its special secret recipes.

**Lorraine Lim Aguila** told us, "Some of these delectable dishes would be (my favorite by the way) pollo asado, paella and lengua. A familiar taste for us Filipinos, but only done best in Casa Armas."

The awesome wine-drinking orgy of Casa Armas Wine War was co-sponsored by Smart Infinity. Rioja wine selections overflowed: Marques de Riscal, to Cune Crianza, Cune Imperial, Gran Reserve, Cune Imperial Reserva, Contino Reserva and the Rene Barbier Mediterranean Line.

Check out Taberna de Casa Armas at the 2/F Paseo Center, corner Paseo de Roxas Ave. and Sedeno St., Makati.

Other Casa Armas restaurants are at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center; 132 Jupiter St, Makati.; and the Podium, Mandaluyong.

**MOTHER-TO-BE** Rosanna Escudero with super pals Vicky Veloso and Kourtney Camcam

**MITZI** de Dios and Mel Velarde

**BUBOY** Macapagal

**WORLD TRAVELER** Mariane Uy Oñate

**DOODIE** and Koncoy Tuason, Greggy Araneta; (right) Karen Santos

**INTERNATIONAL** businessman Henry Zabarte with La Tasca's First Couple, Louie and Marilou Sen

**TYCOONS** who enjoy Spanish cuisine: Rene Paras and Fidel Alfonso

**JOJO** Zabarte, Frannie Jacinto, Ling Ling Quiros and Eva Abesamis

**ED** Roxas with Cesar and Ludy Campos

**FUN** couple EJ and Jun Villacorta

**TONY** Garcia and Mike Toledo

**ARE** they just friends? Len Obles and Rene Golanco

**THEY** are really "just pals": Luli Delgado and Philip Tuason

**ZELDA** Kienhle, Joy Dominguez, Maryann Lumen, Monica Ramirez and Gemma Gemayel

**JUN AGULLA** and attractive Lorraine Lim Aguila, with business tycoon Rante Aguila, Casa Armas main man Jesus Armas and super adorable Laura Lim

**TEA TIME.** Sampling Essenses bath products through a foot spa by HomMedics. Menel Katigbak, Jojo Zabarte, Marivic Vasquez and Elsie Chua

# Showcase of lifestyle settings

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MOUNTS "SPACES + Styles 2005" until Sept. 30 at the mall's third and fourth levels. The exhibit features executions of various lifestyle settings by interior designers, architects, stylists and artists. It also showcases products from the mall's roster of home and living establishments. Leo Almeria will talk on Interior Design Essentials tomorrow, 2 p.m., while Chat Fores will lecture on Dramatic Lighting in Home Interiors at 3:30 p.m. Both sessions are open to the public. Call 6337851.

## GOINGS ON

**SALE.** Check out the latest in homeware, decor, furniture and appliances at Sta. Lucia East Department Store and Home Gallery's ongoing annual Home Fair until Sept. 30. Avail of up to 50 percent discount on your favorite brands. Shoppers may also join the raffle promo. A P500 minimum single receipt of any home item purchased within the promo period is needed to get a raffle coupon. Grand draw is on Oct. 7.

**BOOK LAUNCH.** Anino, an imprint of Adarna House, will launch a graphic novel entitled "The Mythology Class" by Arnold Arre today, 6-8 p.m., at FullyBooked, Rockwell. Admission is free. Call 3723548 local 110.

**CONCERT.** Paco Park Presents features flutist Gary Silangcruz and pianist Marsha Nicolas tonight at 6 at Paco Park, San Marcelino, Manila. The program "Romance for Flute and Piano" also features Jean Galway (flute), James Pierre (flute) and Josh Rampall (piccolo). Admission is free.

**INAUGURATION.** The MySpa Wellness and Fitness Center will be formally inaugurated tomorrow, 10 a.m., at the 2/L Wellness Hub of Starmall Las Piñas. The center features a Zen-inspired spa, state-of-the-art gym, badminton courts and aerobics studio with programs in yoga, Pilates, cardio boxing, hi-lo aerobics and taebo. Call 8748810.

**ANNIVERSARY.** The Quezon Tayabas Association, Inc. is celebrating its 82nd anniversary tomorrow with an annual ball to be held at grand ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

**PHOTO SEMINAR.** The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold an advanced photography seminar starting tomorrow, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

**BOOK LAUNCH.** Adarna House will launch 7 new titles and 4 hardbound classics tomorrow, 2-4 p.m., at PowerBooks, Greenbelt, Makati. Virgilio Almario, National Artist for Literature, will be present for book signing together with Adarna's authors and illustrators. There will be storytelling, face painting, games and prizes to be won. Admission is free. Call 3723548 local 110.

**PLAY.** Concert at the Park and Gantimpala Theater Foundation present "Ibong Adarna" on Sept. 18, 7 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. The Filipino folk tale about a magical bird features the GTF Actors Company led by Wowie de Guzman as Don Juan. Admission is free.

**ANOINTING SERVICE.** The Redeemed Christian Church of God is celebrating this year's "Holy Ghost Service" on Sept. 18, 3 p.m., where people from all walks of life may receive their healing, deliverance, prosperity, miracles and salvation in Christ Jesus during the anointing service. Venue is at the RCCG Manila church, 3/F Didache Bldg., España, Sampaloc, Manila. Call 7322382.

**FAIR.** MBA Fair returns to Manila on Sept. 20, 5-9 p.m., at Manila Peninsula. The event features over 30 international business schools that will meet applicants from the Philippines. Applicants should pre-register online at MBA Tour's website: www.thembatour.com and click on the Asia (Sept. 2005) tour, "Manila" event. A pre-fair MBA workshop will be held 2-4 p.m. on Sept. 20. Call 8120945.

**TRIBUTE.** Alumni of Ateneo de Manila University are organizing a tribute for Fr. Joseph Galdon on the occasion of his 77th birthday on Sept. 24, 3-5 p.m., at Manuel Pangilinan Center, PLDT-CTC room 201 in the campus of Ateneo de Manila University. Call 4264322/ 4266001.

**SEMINAR.** The AIGS Marketing Corporation, distributor of EBL Ion Cleanse electronic detoxification device, holds seminars every Tuesday and Thursday, 2-8 p.m., at Unit 1408, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Call 6873016 to 18.

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* There should be a minimum of one night's stay in Singapore.

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The larger the group, the longer the stay, the more chances to win!
So why not book your Singapore trip with your favorite travel agent now!

[illegible] for details or call the Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines at 81[illegible] Per DTI-NCR [illegible] No. [illegible]

Upcoming Events

September
[illegible] 30 Journey of Faith
[illegible] 25 [illegible] Safari 2005
[illegible] 10 Korean Food Fiesta
[illegible] 30 Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival
[illegible] 30 Quidam by Cirque du Soleil
9 - 10 & 16 - 18 Mooonfest [illegible] Autumn Celebration
[illegible] World Championship
[illegible] 18 5th International Guitar Festival
29 - 30 ARTSingapore - The Asian Contemporary Art Fair
30 Singapore JewelFest

October
[illegible] 2 Quidam by Cirque du Soleil
[illegible] 3 ARTSingapore - The Asian Contemporary Art Fair
[illegible] 9 Journey of Faith
[illegible] 9 Singapore JewelFest
[illegible] 31 Deepavali Festival
24 Theemidhi Festival
TBA Asian Art Week

November
[illegible] Deepavali Festival
[illegible] 10 Hari Raya Light-up
16 - 20 World Cyber Game Grand Final
17 - 30 Gao Xingjian
24 - 27 SITEX 2005 @ Singapore
26 & 27 Singapore River Regatta
TBA Kalaa Utsavam - Indian Festival Arts
TBA Singapore Buskers' Festival
TBA Pesta Raya - Malay Festival of Arts

December
[illegible] 31 Gao Xingjian
[illegible] 31 Celebrate December
[illegible] Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon
TBA Christmas in the Tropics
TBA The Snow Queen
TBA New Year Countdown

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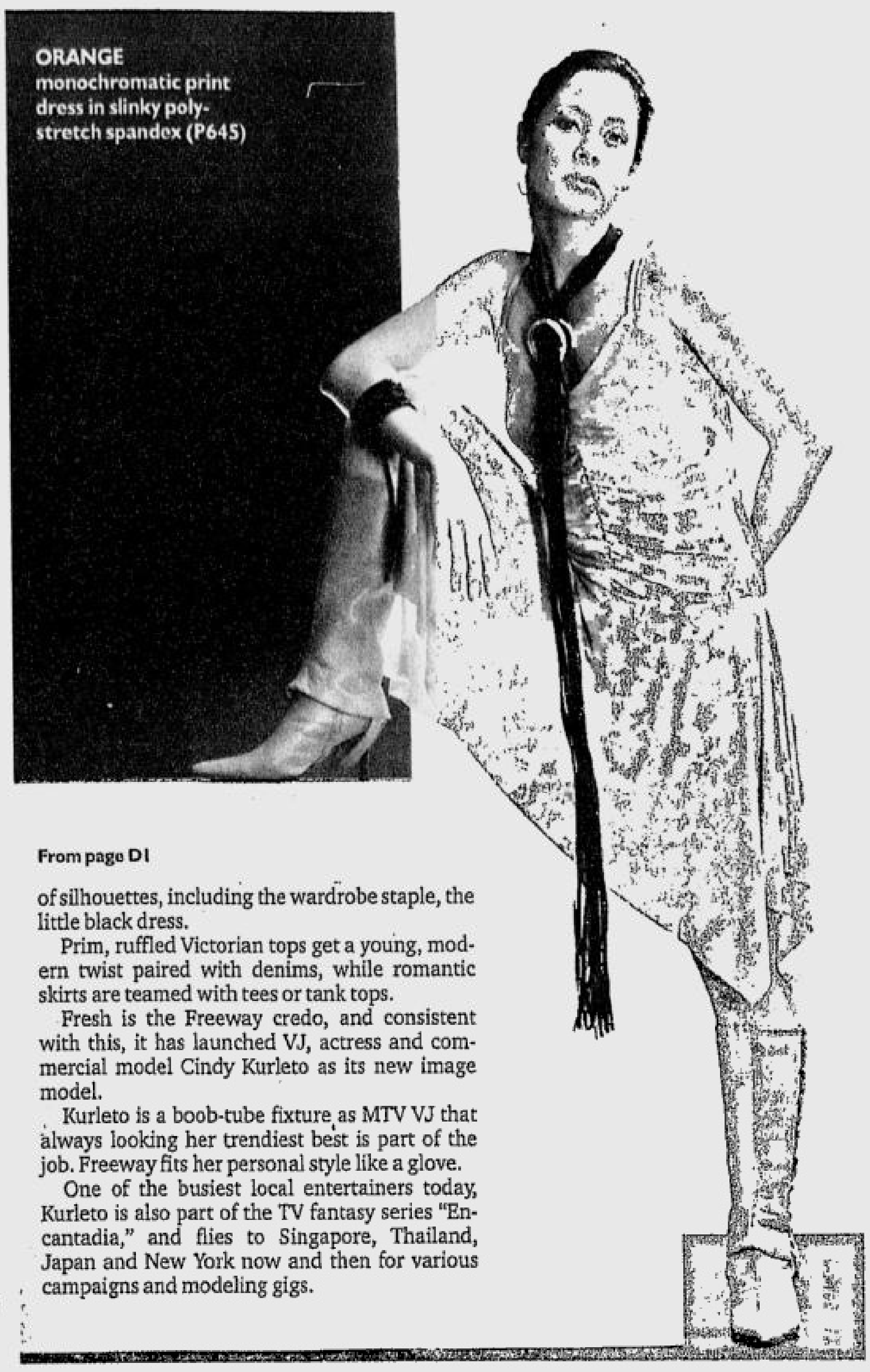
# Free as a bird

IT'S black with a vengeance in this stretch velour, halter backless long dress with high side slits (P1,095).



**ORANGE** monochromatic print dress in slinky poly-stretch spandex (P645)

From page D1

of silhouettes, including the wardrobe staple, the little black dress.

Prim, ruffled Victorian tops get a young, modern twist paired with denims, while romantic skirts are teamed with tees or tank tops.

Fresh is the Freeway credo, and consistent with this, it has launched VJ, actress and commercial model Cindy Kurleto as its new image model.

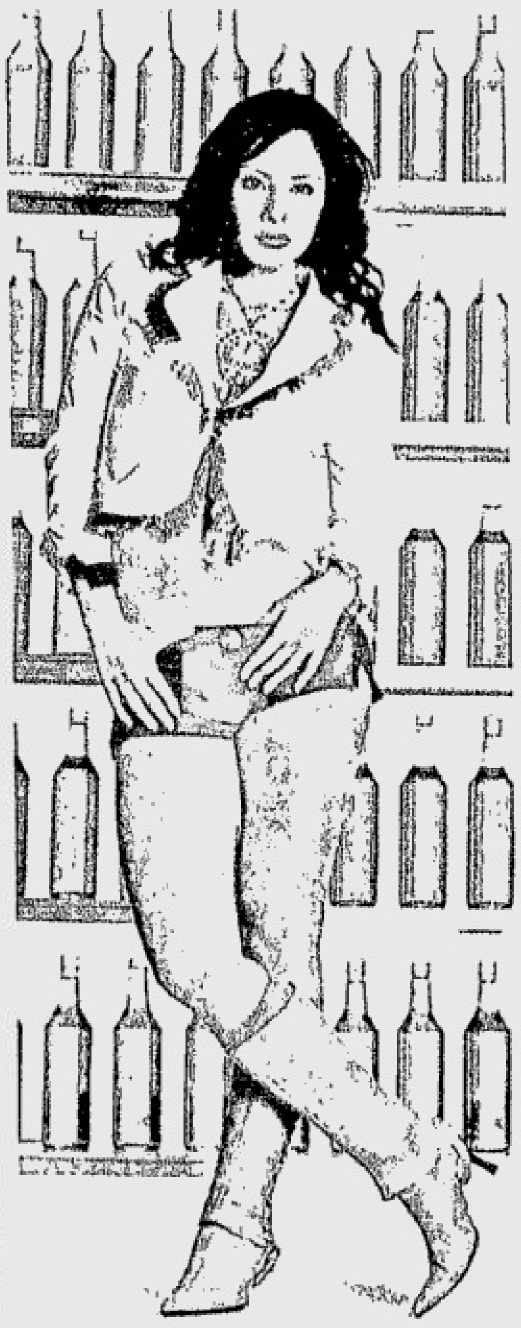
Kurleto is a boob-tube fixture as MTV VJ that always looking her trendiest best is part of the job. Freeway fits her personal style like a glove.

One of the busiest local entertainers today, Kurleto is also part of the TV fantasy series "Encantadia," and flies to Singapore, Thailand, Japan and New York now and then for various campaigns and modeling gigs.

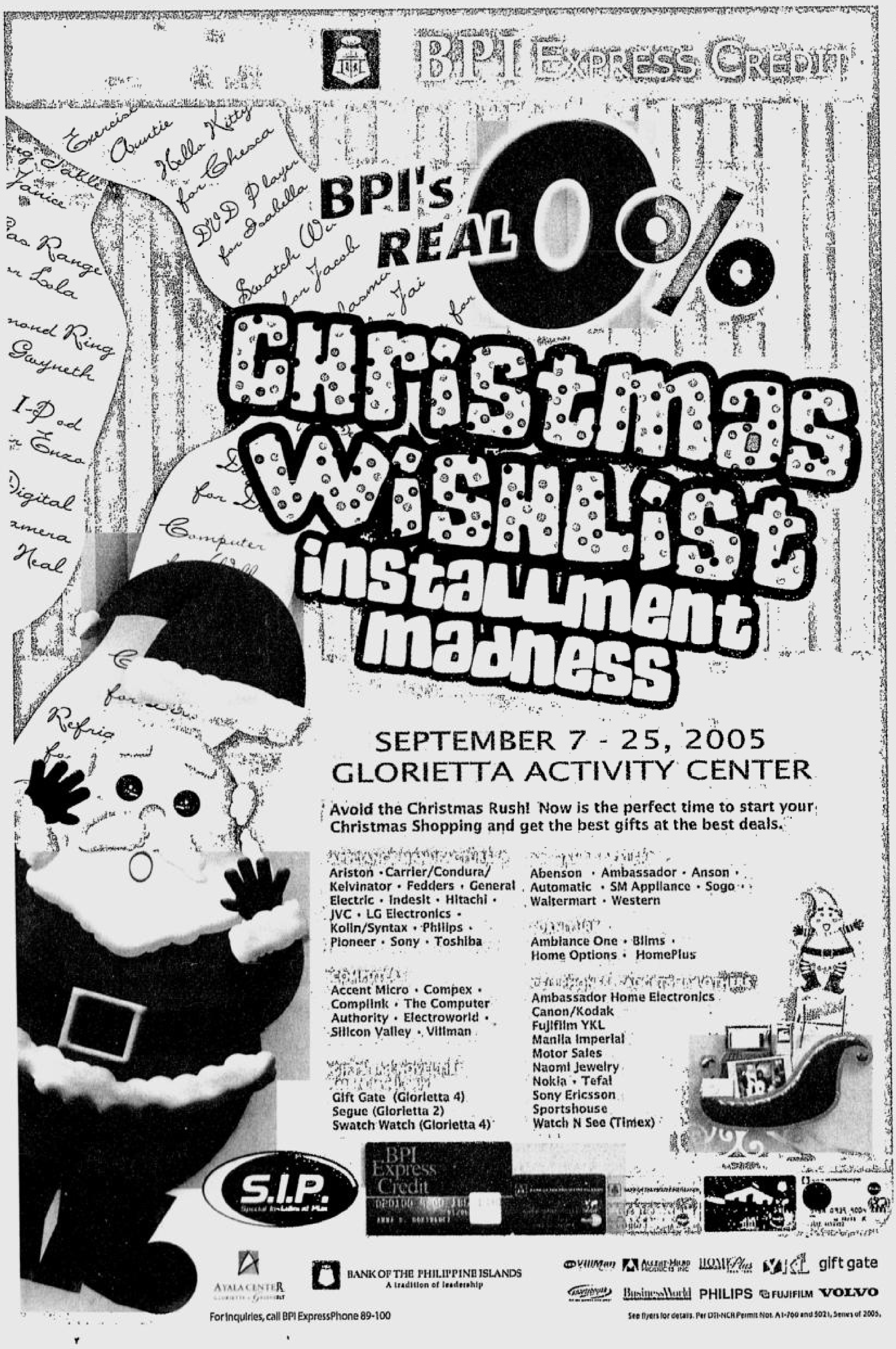
**GEM-COLORED** printed satin spaghetti top (P325) over multi-pocket denim jeans (P795)

FREEWAY HAS BOUTIQUES IN ALL SM BRANCHES; SELECT ROBINSONS MALLS; GLORIETTA 1, MAKATI; ALABANG TOWN CENTER; AYALA CENTER CEBU; FESTIVAL SUPERMALL ALABANG; PAVILLON STA. ROSA; ABANAO SQUARE, BAGUIO CITY; ALI MALL, CUBAO; MARKET! MARKET! TAGUIG; EDSA CENTRAL; LIMKETKAI MALL, CAGAYAN DE ORO; CHIMES MALL, DAVAO; AND ISLAND CITY MALL BOHOL

PHOTOS: PANCHO ESCALER
STYLING: FREDERICK SY
HAIR AND MAKEUP: KRIST BANSUELO



**PURPLE** hot pants (P595) and a white cropped jacket with multicolored frayed-seam accent (P1,095)



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...207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

# And now, Kris the fashion icon

KRIS Aquino in gown by Inno Sotto. Photograph by Jun de Leon for Metro magazine

LIFE-STYLED

*Thelma Sioson San Juan*

I HAD A MOST REVEALING chat with **Inno Sotto** about, of all people, **Kris Aquino**, the "mother" of all celebs today.

The other day, after some coercion, Inno told me how women from as far away as Davao would come to him to have dresses or gowns made similar to, if not exactly the same as, those Kris wore on "The Buzz."

"A week after [the show] I get orders for the low-back or the plunging neckline," Inno said. "They ask me to literally do copies of what Kris wore on the show."

Recently six women from Bulacan came to him requesting the "Kris knock-offs." Of course, there are also women from mega Manila making the same request.

These women cut across ages, from their 20s to their 40s, Inno said.

That's a revelation, even given the national presence Kris has become. Thanks or no thanks to her storied life, most of it her love life, Kris is not only a celebrity, but a national obsession as well. She is an unscripted *teleserye* whose twists and turns the country has followed since her childhood. Of course, as in a *teleserye* she herself is the villainess and the heroine rolled into one. You have a choice of which role you like to see in her. No other scriptwriter could have penned it better than she herself.

An interesting revelation is that women from as far as Davao order the clothes she wears on TV

Now, we discover that she's become a fashion icon as well. Fashion writers may be looking at the wrong places for fashion or style icons. This icon tag has been used rather loosely on models, party animals, young socialites, but in fact, the most dominant fashion icon is Kris. This is so not only because she is in show biz, or that she has the farthest reach of television here and abroad, or that she has a celebrity's generous budget for wardrobe and style. It is also because she has developed the body for those clothes. You end up talking not only about her gown or her décolletage, you also talk about—okay, envy—that cleavage, or that hourglass contour.

Now that's the ultimate iconic exercise.

What many may not know is that Kris works at her fashion.

"She is very visual," said Inno. "She knows what looks good on her. She knows her body. She knows that people watch her. She knows the medium that is television. She's conscious of the camera, that it shows not only her front but also her back."

And fashion rule No. 1: She knows what color is best on her. Pink is her favorite. It brings out her milky white complexion. She wears its various hues. If not pink, she knows the other cool fragrant colors that enhance that porcelain skin—even the neutrals that few women can get away it. For instance, on the September Metro cover, she's in a daring Inno Sotto décolletage with delicate beadwork, in taupe this time.

Inno says Kris comes at a most appropriate time when fashion is body and skin. "She looks good bare, not fully covered," the couturier noted.

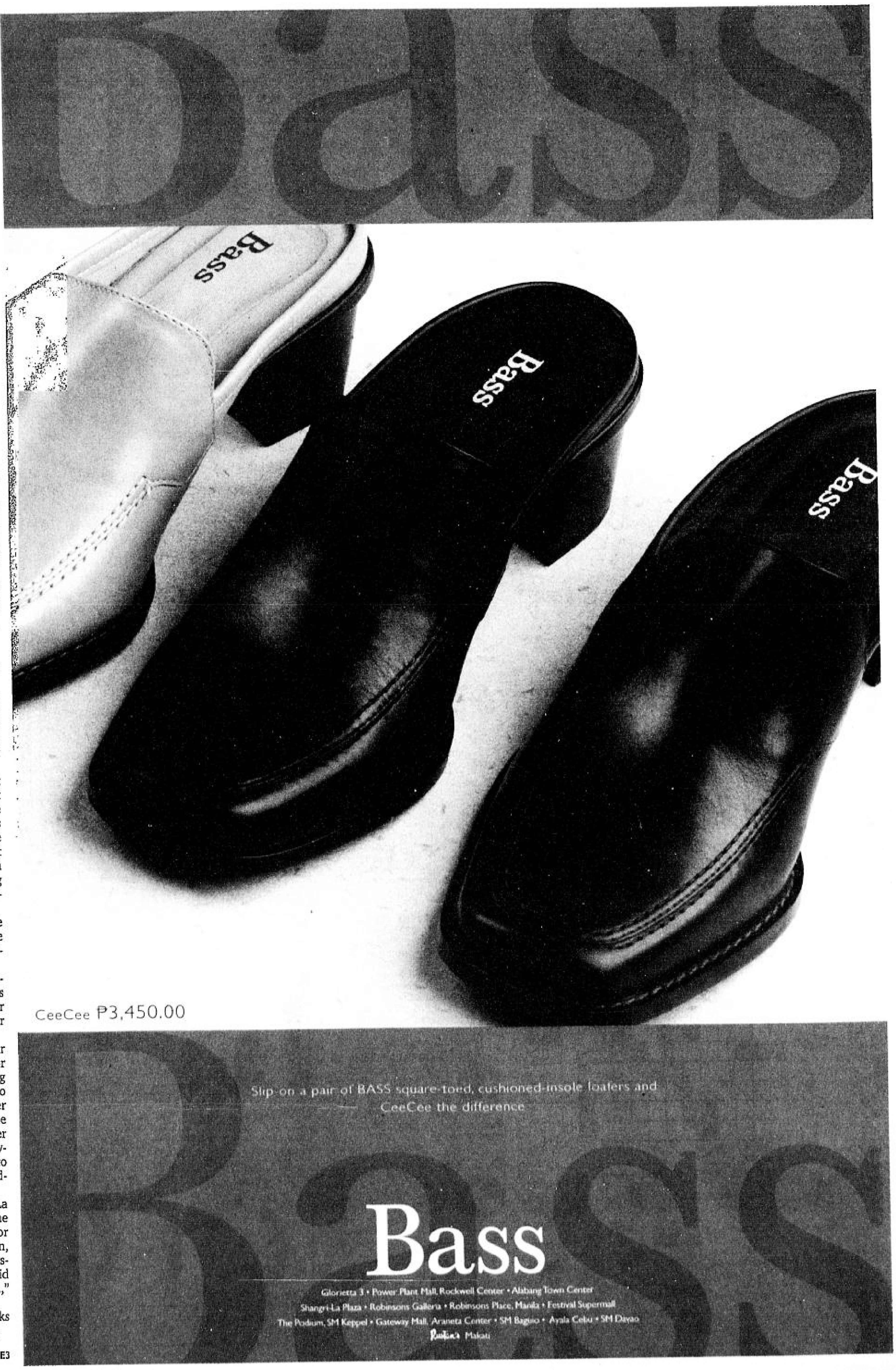
Kris is a diligent reader of fashion magazines; she researches on her clothes and is thus pretty up to date. She invests in her wardrobe. She pays for it. JC Buendia is her other regular designer.

Moreover, she has the discipline to wear her fashion. She reportedly prepares for weeks or even months for a shoot, even going on a spartan diet. For instance, it took Metro almost a year to woo her to do the cover shoot, during which she'd send word that she wasn't that prepared yet, given her killer schedule. She wanted to look best on the cover—by her exacting standards—from hair to toe. As one designer said, "I wish other models were like her."

The cover shoot itself at Eco Park in La Mesa Dam was at an unholy hour—6 a.m. She even arrived there ahead of Jun de Leon. For more than three hours under the beating sun, Jun made her work the gamut of fashion poses. "I brought her to an old barge, and she did the shot like a trouper, even at a hot 11 a.m.," Jun said.

"People may not know how hard she works at her craft, even a fashion shoot," said Jun.

AND NOW/ E3



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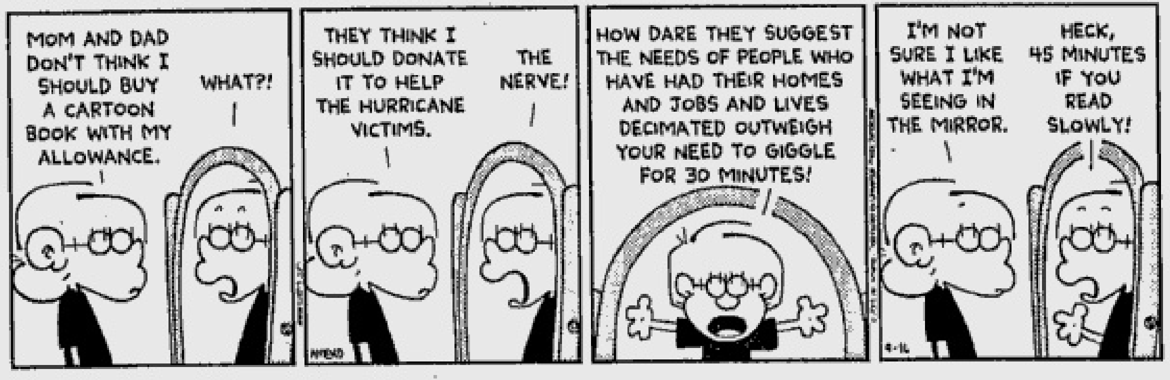
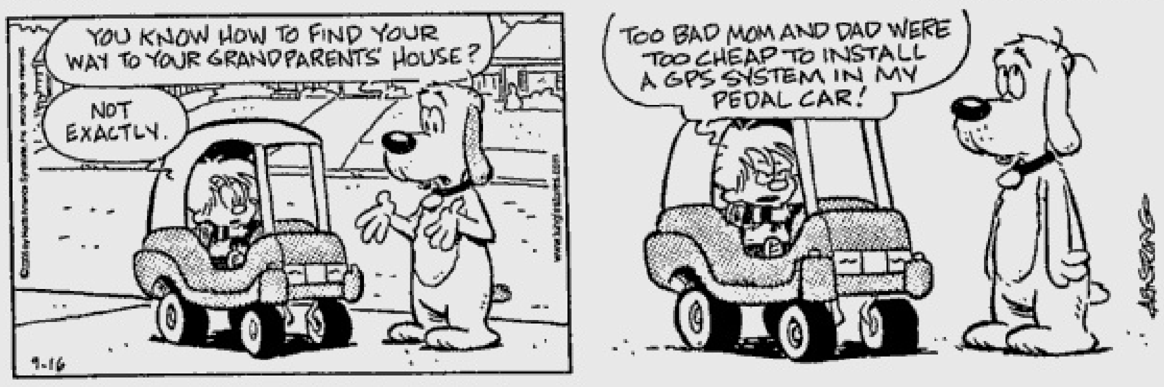
## FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MOM AND DAD DON'T THINK I SHOULD BUY A CARTOON BOOK WITH MY ALLOWANCE.
WHAT?!
THEY THINK I SHOULD DONATE IT TO HELP THE HURRICANE VICTIMS.
THE NERVE!
HOW DARE THEY SUGGEST THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD THEIR HOMES AND JOBS AND LIVES DECIMATED OUTWEIGH YOUR NEED TO GIGGLE FOR 30 MINUTES!
I'M NOT SURE I LIKE WHAT I'M SEEING IN THE MIRROR.
HECK, 45 MINUTES IF YOU READ SLOWLY!
AMEND
9-16

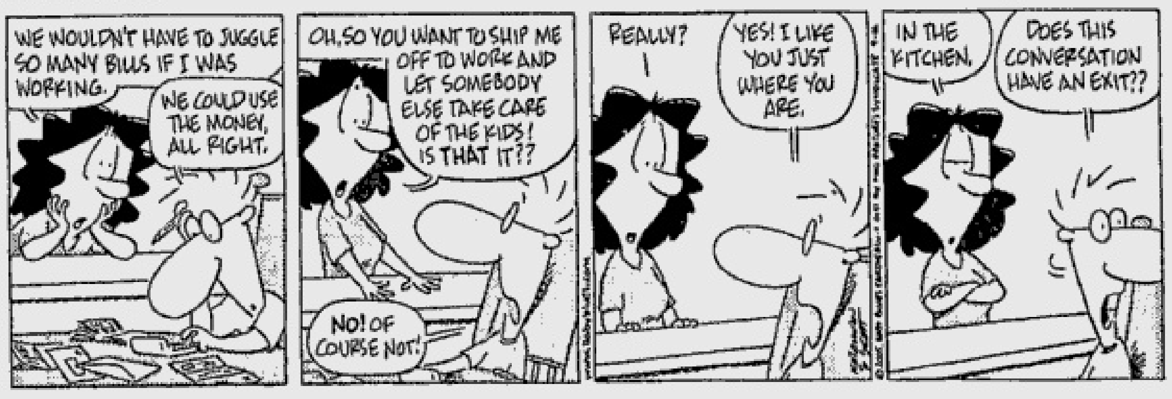
## MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND YOUR WAY TO YOUR GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE?
NOT EXACTLY.
TOO BAD MOM AND DAD WERE TOO CHEAP TO INSTALL A GPS SYSTEM IN MY PEDAL CAR!
ARMSTRONG
9-16

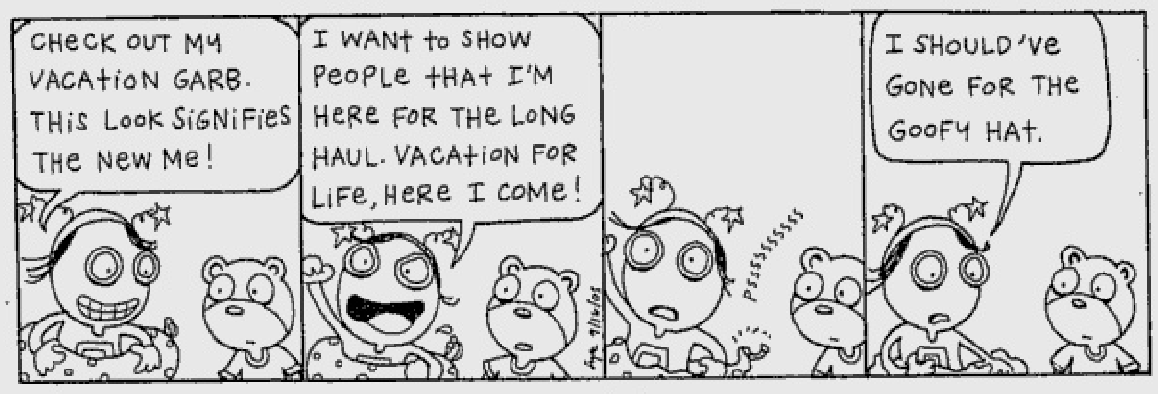
## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO JUGGLE SO MANY BILLS IF I WAS WORKING.
WE COULD USE THE MONEY, ALL RIGHT.
OH, SO YOU WANT TO SHIP ME OFF TO WORK AND LET SOMEBODY ELSE TAKE CARE OF THE KIDS! IS THAT IT??
NO! OF COURSE NOT!
REALLY?
YES! I LIKE YOU JUST WHERE YOU ARE.
IN THE KITCHEN.
DOES THIS CONVERSATION HAVE AN EXIT??

## ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


CHECK OUT MY VACATION GARB. THIS LOOK SIGNIFIES THE NEW ME!
I WANT TO SHOW PEOPLE THAT I'M HERE FOR THE LONG HAUL. VACATION FOR LIFE, HERE I COME!
PSSSSSSSS
I SHOULD'VE GONE FOR THE GOOFY HAT.

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're generous and warmhearted. Others love you for these qualities. You're enthusiastic about life, and you like to share this enthusiasm. You genuinely want to make the world a better place. Many of you will do this regardless of your career choice. A major change awaits you this year. It will be liberating.
**Birthdate of:** Marc Anthony, singer/actor; Lauren Bacall, actress; B.B. King, musician.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Tension with co-workers, customers or matters that are job-related can be expected today. Don't worry; problems always seem to increase just before the Full Moon.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Creative differences about artistic projects are likely today. Similar differences might occur in romantic situations or when working with children. In a few days, these differences will be over.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** It's hard to know what to put first—your job or your career? At this point in time, you cannot ignore the demands of home and family. Remember this.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Discussions with siblings, neighbors and relatives could be testy today. You're impatient. Differences with others arise because of the tension that is everywhere today. Fortunately, this tension subsides after tomorrow's Full Moon.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Money squabbles are likely. This Full Moon brings stress to these areas (money and possessions). After the Full Moon has peaked tomorrow, these problems will diminish. (Whew.)

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Tomorrow's Full Moon opposes your sign. But that's why difficulties arise today between you and others. Just be patient. Things will be much better by Sunday.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Health concerns or matters related to small pets could be on your mind right now. Nevertheless, you'll feel much better about these areas in two days. (Let the Full Moon pass.)

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Tension always builds up before a Full Moon. Problems seem to intensify. After the Full Moon, they diminish or vanish. Observe what happens to your romantic relationships and your relations with children in the next few days.

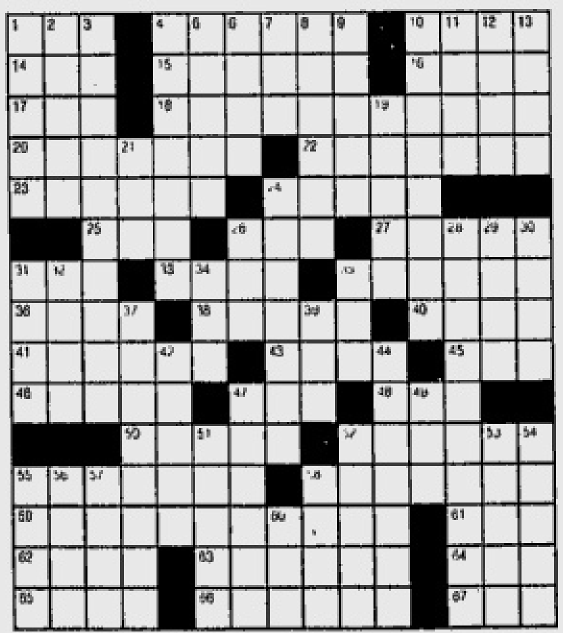
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Conflict with parents and authority figures is likely today. Therefore, don't bait anyone. Don't ask permission. Wait until Sunday or Monday.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** This is a mildly accident-prone day. Primarily, this is simply because of your impatience or tendency to be distracted. Nothing really has to go wrong. Stay mindful.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Don't be adamant about financial matters today. Keep an open mind. Be prepared to be flexible. In a few days, you'll be glad you took this stance.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Tomorrow's Full Moon is in your sign. Naturally, you feel edgy and nervous today. A restless feeling pervades everything. Just go with the flow. (This is really no big deal.)

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

9/16/05

**ACROSS**
1 Observed
4 Some WMDs
10 Slightly wet
14 Smallest bill
15 Sgt. or cpl.
16 Spanish water
17 Israeli weapon
18 Wedding reception tradition
20 Slowpokes
22 Parking sites
23 Ski
24 Decorative growth
25 General on a Chinese menu
26 Asian holiday
27 "R.U.R." playwright
31 High-speed PC line
33 Bonet or Loeb
35 Florida explorer
36 Chamber
38 Pace
40 Cube-maker Rubik
41 Classify
43 Seep slowly
45 Strike lightly
46 Breakfast beverage
47 Clairvoyant's claim
48 Vane dir.
50 __ and whey
52 More than one
55 Books of maps
58 Headed for
59 Danza series
61 Clodhopper
62 "Lift Every Voice" author Guinier
63 Just about
64 Madrid Mrs.
65 Autograph
66 Backs of singles
67 Pose for a portrait

**DOWN**
1 Spiritual natures
2 Down Under soldier
3 Dieter's goal
4 Oral pain reliever brand
5 Unmannerly people
6 Big burden
7 1974 John Wayne movie
8 Purchased
9 Drag through the mud
10 Computer bank
11 Very excited
12 Ponder
13 Free ticket
19 White flag's message
21 Astronaut Grissom
24 Red algae
26 Half an African fly?
28 CIA director
29 Sicilian volcano
30 C. Everett __
31 Dull, yellowish brown
32 Middling
34 Addams Family member
35 Egg qty.
37 Leather slipper
39 Dad
42 Drive from bed
44 Joins up
47 Infamous Fords
49 Church sister
51 Post-op regimen
52 Sheriff's gang
53 Video game pioneer
54 Diet-food claim
55 Piercing tools
56 Bangkok native
57 Protracted
58 Well-behaved
60 ASCAP counterpart

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | A | S | T | A | | A | L | M | S | | G | A | P | S |
| A | C | T | I | N | | T | O | A | T | | P | U | L | E |
| W | H | E | N | A | M | O | U | S | E | | O | R | A | L |
| S | E | W | E | D | O | N | | S | P | A | | O | N | E |
| | | | | E | N | A | T | E | | S | I | R | E | N |
| G | H | I | M | M | | L | A | U | G | H | S | A | T | A |
| M | O | R | A | S | S | | U | S | H | E | R | | | |
| S | E | E | N | | E | S | T | E | E | | A | M | I | E |
| | | | T | U | T | E | E | | E | T | E | R | N | E |
| C | A | T | I | T | H | A | S | A | | E | L | I | T | E |
| A | B | A | S | E | | S | T | R | I | A | | | | |
| U | L | T | | P | C | H | | L | A | S | H | O | U | T |
| L | O | T | S | | H | O | L | E | N | E | A | R | B | Y |
| K | O | L | A | | I | R | A | N | | T | W | E | E | N |
| S | M | E | W | | P | E | P | F | | S | N | O | R | E |

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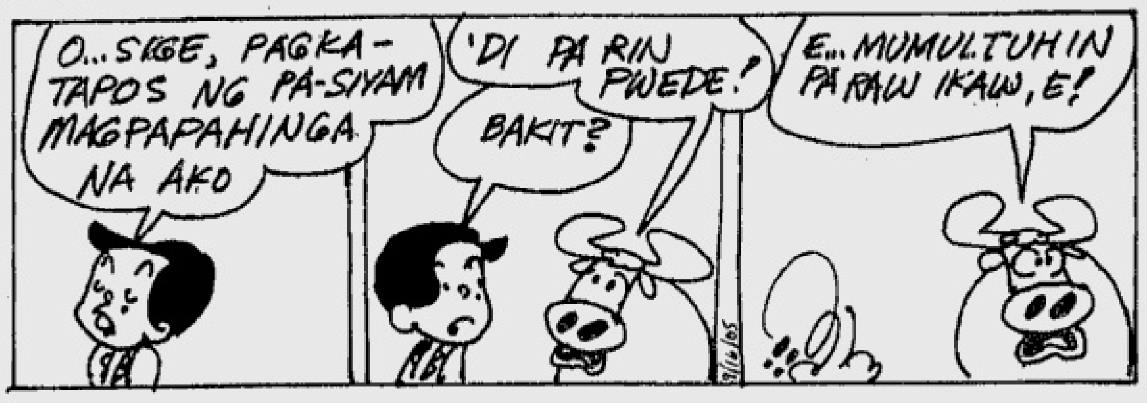
9/16/05

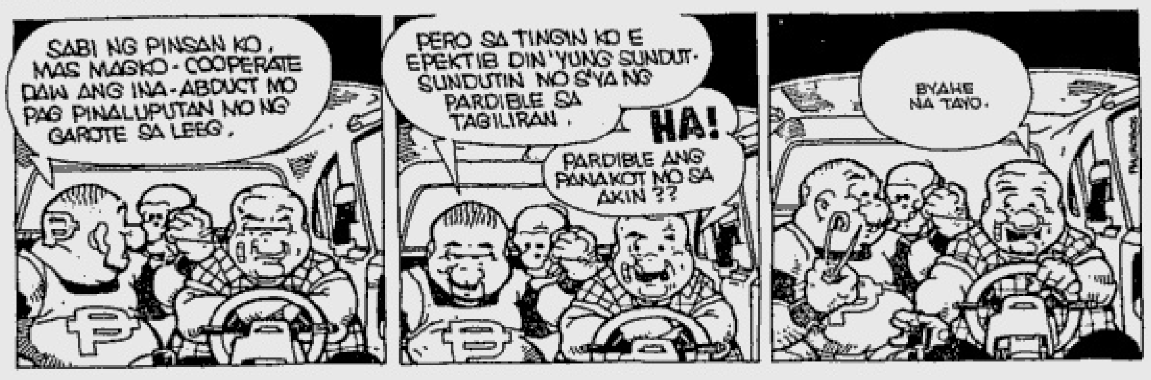
## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


O... SIGE, PAGKATAPOS NG PA-SIYAM MAGPAPAHINGA NA AKO
BAKIT?
'DI PA RIN PWEDE!
E... MUMULTUHIN PA RAW IKAW, E!
9/16/05

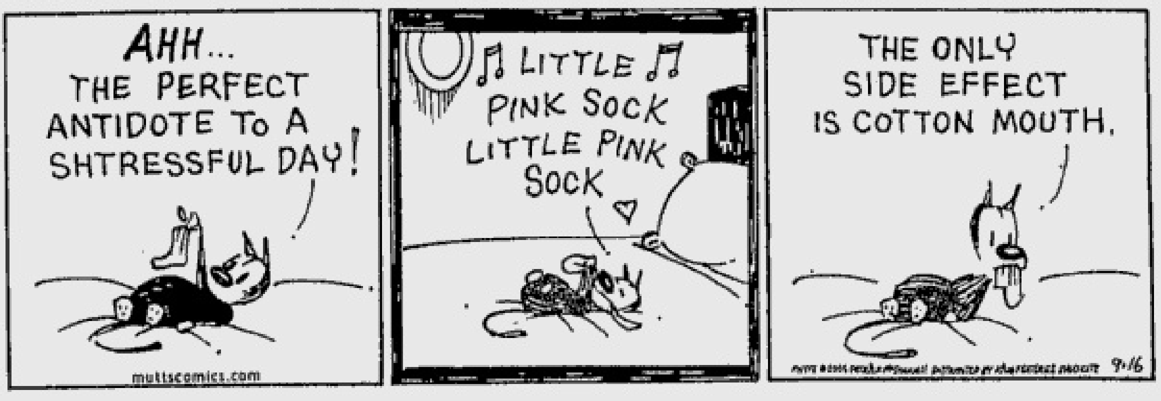
## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SABI NG PINSAN KO, MAS MAGKO-COOPERATE DAW ANG INA-ABDUCT MO PAG PINALUPUTAN MO NG GAROTE SA LEEG.
PERO SA TINGIN KO E EPEKTIB DIN 'YUNG SUNDUT-SUNDUTIN MO S'YA NG PARDIBLE SA TAGILIRAN.
HA!
PARDIBLE ANG PANAKOT MO SA AKIN??
BYAHE NA TAYO.

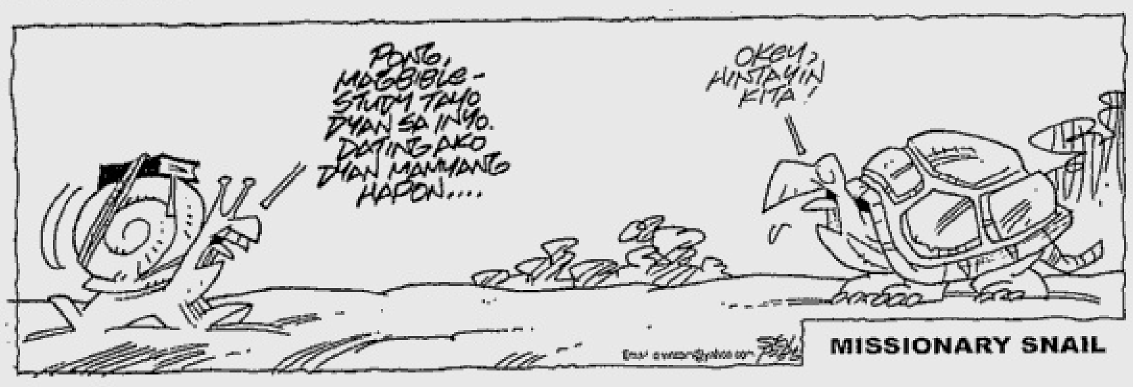
## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AHH... THE PERFECT ANTIDOTE TO A SHTRESSFUL DAY!
♫ LITTLE ♫ PINK SOCK LITTLE PINK SOCK
THE ONLY SIDE EFFECT IS COTTON MOUTH.
muttscomics.com
9-16

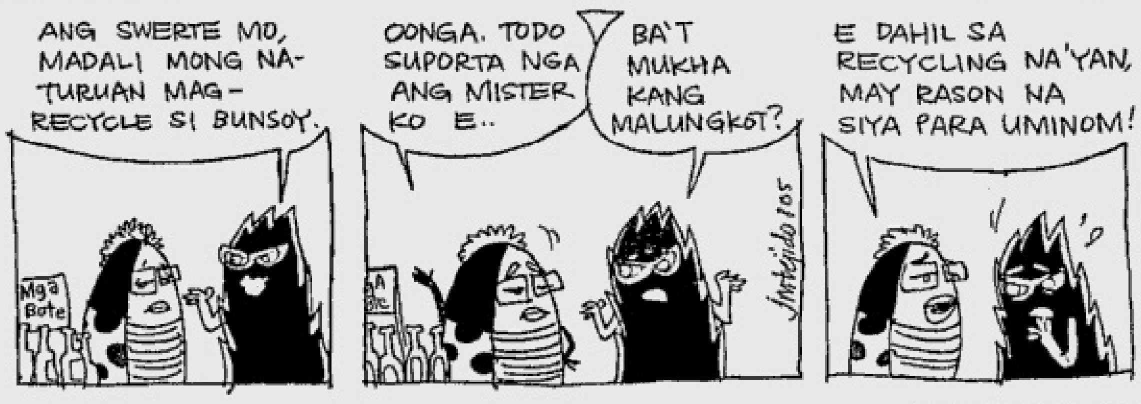
## DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PONG, MAGBIBLE-STUDY TAYO DYAN SA INYO. DARATING AKO DYAN MAMAYANG HAPON....
OKEY, HINTAYIN KITA!
MISSIONARY SNAIL

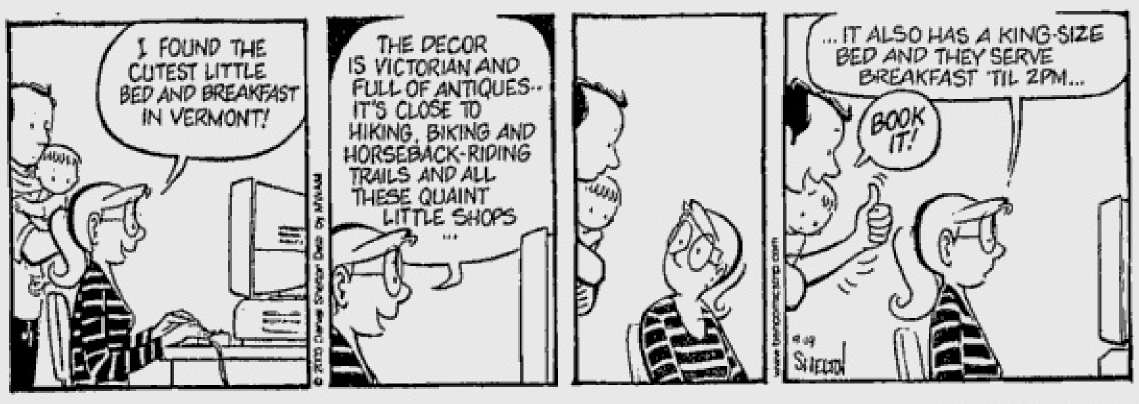
## MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG SWERTE MO, MADALI MONG NATURUAN MAG-RECYCLE SI BUNSOY.
Mga Bote
OONGA. TODO SUPORTA NGA ANG MISTER KO E..
BA'T MUKHA KANG MALUNGKOT?
E DAHIL SA RECYCLING NA'YAN, MAY RASON NA SIYA PARA UMINOM!
jmtejido '05

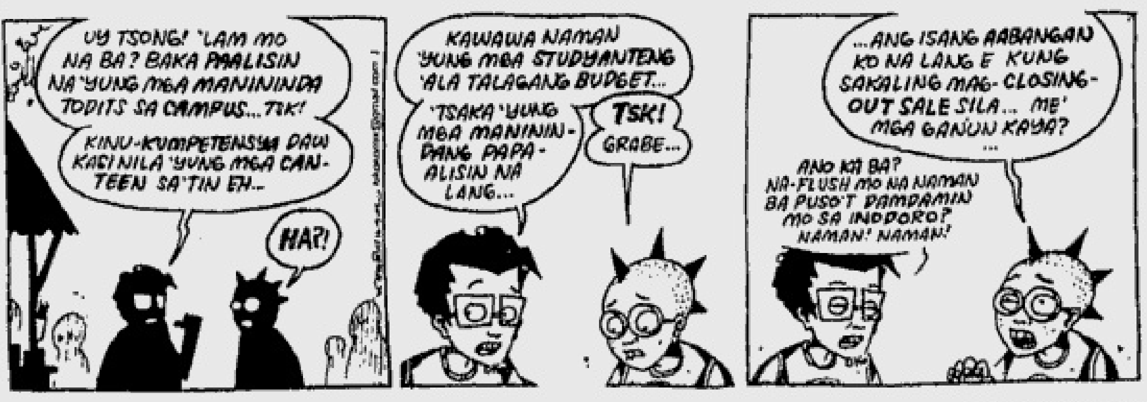
## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I FOUND THE CUTEST LITTLE BED AND BREAKFAST IN VERMONT!
THE DECOR IS VICTORIAN AND FULL OF ANTIQUES.. IT'S CLOSE TO HIKING, BIKING AND HORSEBACK-RIDING TRAILS AND ALL THESE QUAINT LITTLE SHOPS ...
... IT ALSO HAS A KING-SIZE BED AND THEY SERVE BREAKFAST 'TIL 2PM...
BOOK IT!
SHELTON

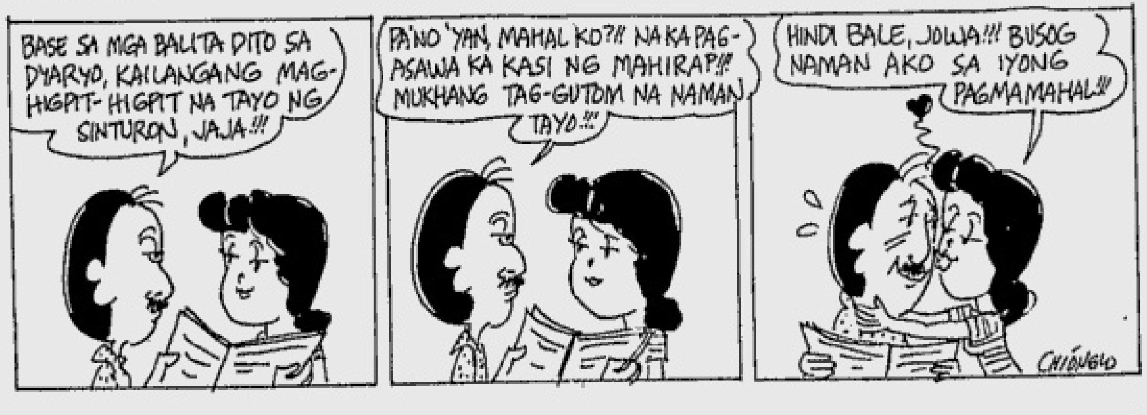
## KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY TSONG! 'LAM MO NA BA? BAKA PAALISIN NA 'YUNG MGA MANININDA TODITS SA CAMPUS... TSK!
KINU-KUMPETENSYA DAW KASI NILA 'YUNG MGA CANTEEN SA'TIN EH...
HA?!
KAWAWA NAMAN 'YUNG MGA STUDYANTENG 'ALA TALAGANG BUDGET...
'TSAKA 'YUNG MGA MANININDANG PAPA-ALISIN NA LANG...
TSK! GRABE...
...ANG ISANG AABANGAN KO NA LANG E KUNG SAKALING MAG-CLOSING-OUT SALE SILA... ME' MGA GANUN KAYA? ...
ANO KA BA? NA-FLUSH MO NA NAMAN BA PUSO'T DAMDAMIN MO SA INODORO? NAMAN! NAMAN!

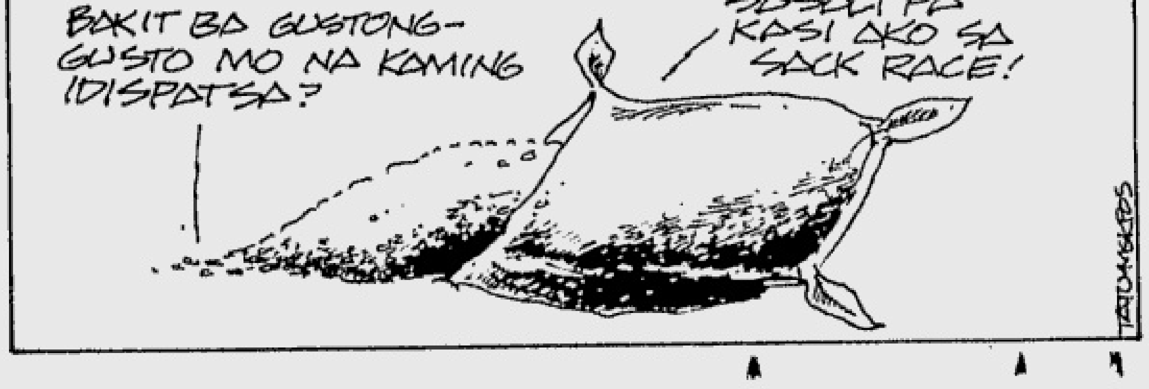
## LOVEKNOTS

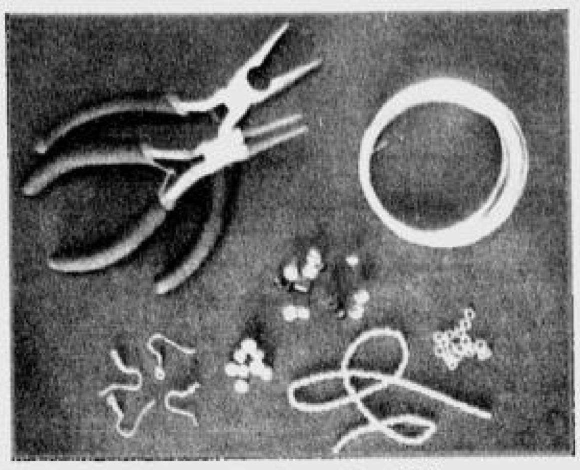
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BASE SA MGA BALITA DITO SA DYARYO, KAILANGANG MAG-HIGPIT-HIGPIT NA TAYO NG SINTURON, JAJA!!!
PA'NO 'YAN, MAHAL KO?!! NAKAPAG-ASAWA KA KASI NG MAHIRAP!!! MUKHANG TAG-GUTOM NA NAMAN TAYO!!!
HINDI BALE, JOWA!!! BUSOG NAMAN AKO SA IYONG PAGMAMAHAL!!!
CHIONGLO

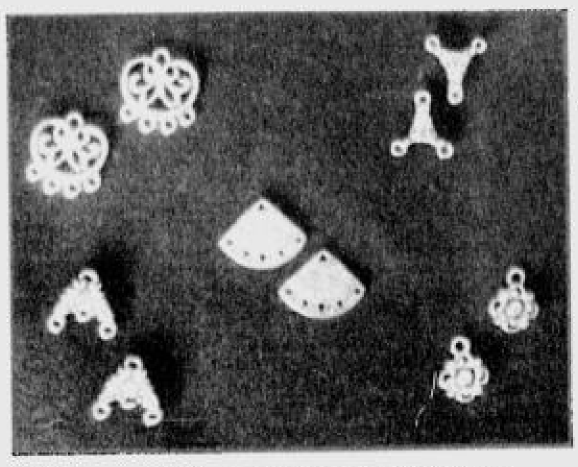
## TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT BA GUSTONG-GUSTO MO NA KAMING IDISPATSA?
SASALI PA KASI AKO SA SACK RACE!
TATUMMILAMBILING



**YOU'LL** need the following tools, which you can find in craft stores.



**TAKE** your pick from a wide variety of earring heads, which you'll use to attach the various components you will be creating.

**CHERRY** Santos shows Jesse Tan and Ophie Dee some basic earring-making techniques.

**SHERYLL** Santos and Cielo Vilches patiently work on their masterpieces.

**CRIS** Sumbingco obviously enjoys working with her hands while Tita Ochoa is slightly baffled and eventually decides to just scour the malls for store-bought earrings.

**BRENDA** Cancio proudly shows off her work as Cherry beams with approval.

**EVEN** children can join in the fun as mommy Jesse and 6-year-old Neathanya create their own colorful bead combinations.

## STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1 Start by cutting two inches from the 3-mm gauge wire. You need this to create a component, which you will eventually attach to another component or to the earring head. This is also what you will use to string your choice of beads.

2 Use the long nose to form a tiny loop on one end. To secure the loop, use the pliers to twist the wire around the end of the loop. Try to make the twisted area as short and tight as possible.

3 Create a design or color combination by stringing beads or spacers of your choice. The loop you form acts as a stopper but make sure the beads cover the area where the wire is twisted. The only visible part should be the tiny loop at the end of the wire.

4 Cut the wire to the length you need then form another loop and twist the wire to seal the end. This forms your first component.

5 Repeat the process to create another component.

6 You can then attach the components to each other or to a chain. Regular length of chain is about five links but it all depends on your design.

7 Attach the components, chains and the earring head with the use of links and a long nose. Use the pliers to open the link but don't open wider than necessary. To seal, simply twist shut or squeeze sideways.

8 Attach the earring head to the hook with the use of a link and a long nose.

9 If steps two and four are a bit too difficult for you. Try this shortcut:

- Form a loop, which you can squeeze shut (instead of twisting the wire).
- Insert the beads then cut wire to desired length.
- To seal, form another loop and insert the loose end in the bead hole.

# D-I-Y earrings

### APPLES' PICKINGS

*Apples Aberin-Sadhwani*

ALTHOUGH THE NECKPIECE IS THE accessory of choice this season, chandelier earrings are still quite popular. In fact, various styles and prices abound in the local market, from P35 shoulder dusters at Building 168 in Divisoria, mid-priced danglers made of crystals and semi-precious stones at Greenhills to priceless antique finds at fine jewelry stores.

There's literally a candy store of great finds and bargains out there. But why not try to create your own pair of earrings with your choice of beads and color combinations?

As a starting point, it's a good idea to take a class on basic jewelry-making. This way, a qualified instructor can demonstrate the different techniques involved. Of course, if you're confident enough, all you need to start are some basic tools and a simple jewelry-making book.

But according to artist/jewelry designer Cherry Santos, it's best to take a class if you really want to get into it. Cherry conducts jewelry-making workshops and she says you'll need a lot of time plus a certain amount of patience and creativity to create your own pieces. "It can get a bit frustrating at first because you work with tiny components. But it's also quite fun and rewarding," she adds.

I was able to sit in and take notes at one of Cherry's classes. Together with six enthusiastic students, I learned the rudiments of earring-making. Just a caveat, earring-making is apparently not for everyone. Only three determined participants completed the class that afternoon.

In any case, to get you started, read on for some of the things we learned.

### Tools of the trade

You'll need the following in your jewelry making kit:

Small pliers and a long nose (to cut and form wires and links)
3-mm gauge stainless steel wire
Stainless steel chain links
Surgical steel earring hooks
Stainless steel links
Spacers (optional)
Earring heads
Beads

You can find most of these items in craft shops or any jewelry hardware store. Or try stores like Carolina's.

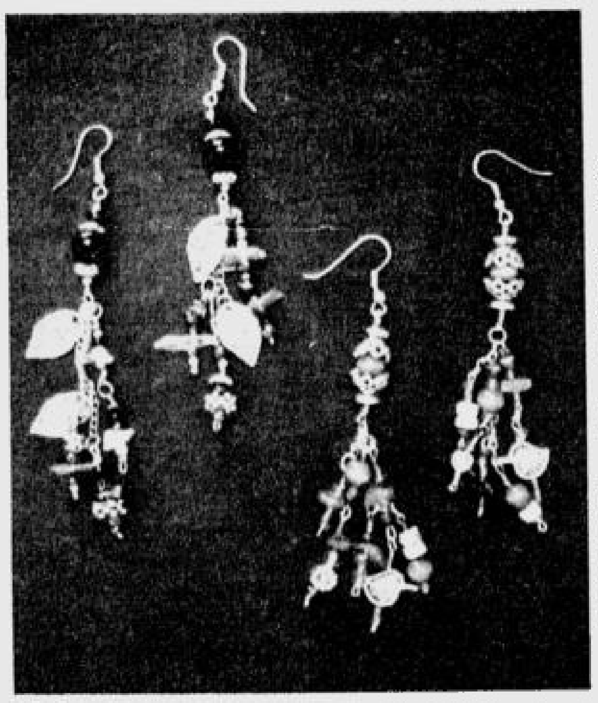
Cherry urges her students to get creative by using different components and to create depth by combining dark and light colors or using varying lengths and textures.

"The earrings don't have to be symmetrical in design. It's more interesting when they're not," she adds.

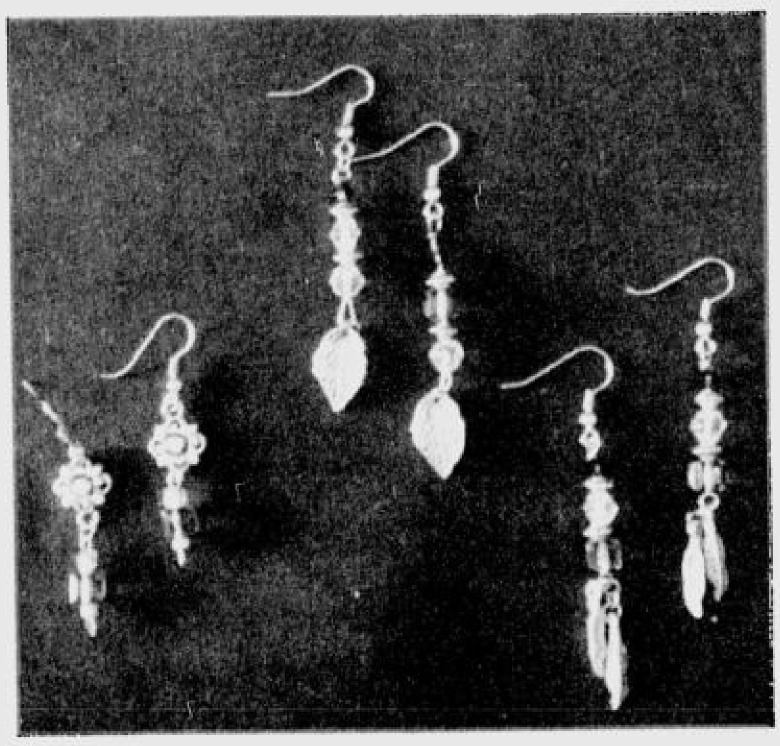
It's a lot simpler than it sounds and by looking at photos of finished products, you'll actually get a better idea how it's done. Just remember to have fun while indulging in your little D-I-Y project.

*Call or text 0920-9228078.*

*E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com.*



**CHERRY** brought these pretty earrings, which she had made, to inspire her students to get creative.



**VOILA!** Here are the finished products of three of Cherry's students.

# And now, Kris the fashion icon

From page E1

How does she pull it off? "She loves what she's doing so she gives it her best," said Jun, who has shot Kris since her first product endorsement in the '80s during the Cory Aquino era. The recent cover shoot was Kris' first in a long time.

Kris has the biggest number of endorsements in the country today—14, I believe. Now that's what you call an icon.

### 'Evil badings'

The **Jennifer Aniston** cover became the biggest selling Vanity Fair cover of all time, beating **Carolyn Bessette Kennedy's** in 1999 shortly after the latter's death.

Over lunch last week, I caught a hilarious piece of gossip—the whole Manila (which isn't much, meaning from Greenbelt to Rockwell) is talking about the "war" of the "evil *badings*," which if it accelerates could dwarf Tom Cruise's "War of the Worlds." "Evil *badings*," to those who need translation, is the latest tag given Manila's beautiful, young but bitchy, bratty gays who spice up our drab days with their latest tiffs and explosions. Now, the lunch talk went, one "evil *bading*" is threatening to sue the other over… sorry, we cannot elaborate at this time.

It'll be a busy year end for fashion—the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines will have its gala and competition in October. **Cesar Gaupo** will have his Spring/Summer '06 collection on Sept. 30 at Ayala Museum. **Lulu Tan Gan** will have an intimate show on Sept 28. **Rajo Laurel** will have his collection sponsored by the Young Presidents Organization in December.

Waterfront might hold a Fashion Week in Cebu in the last quarter. And Metrowear, the biggest gathering of the foremost designers, will be in November.

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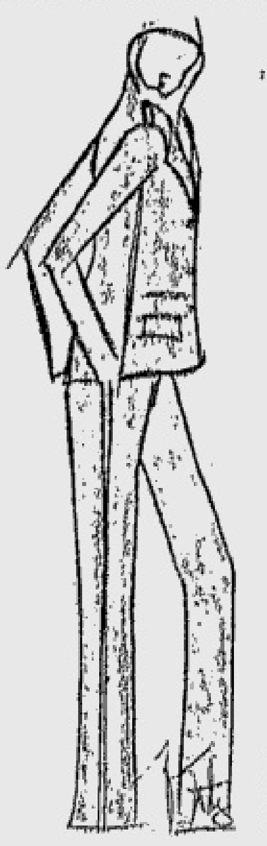
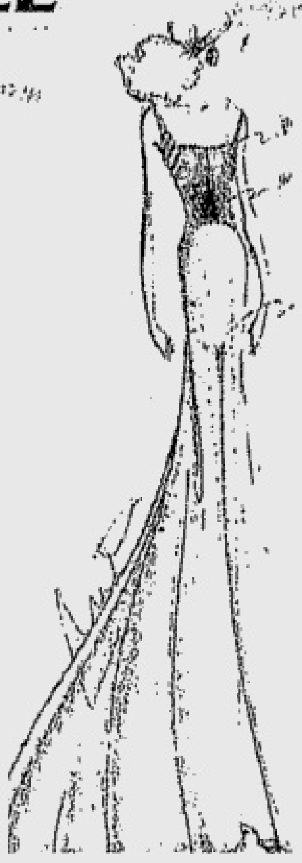
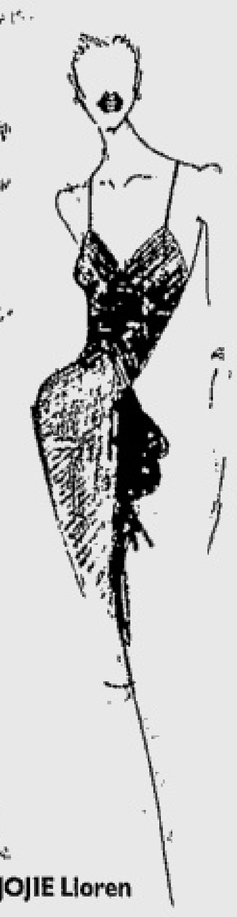


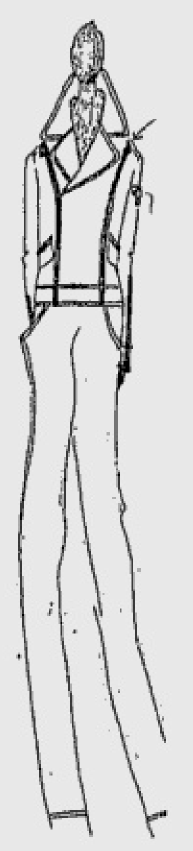
RANDY Ortiz



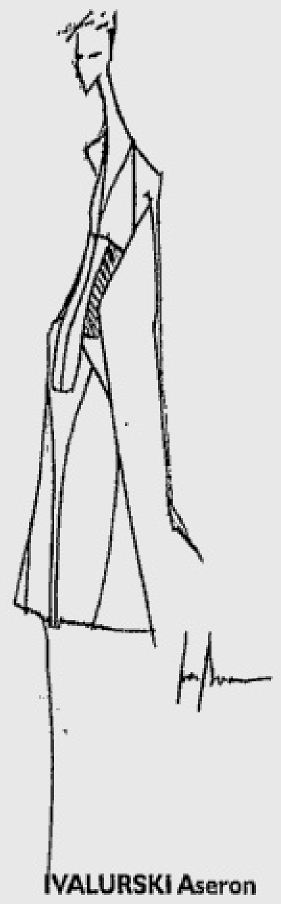
DENNIS Lustico



JOJIE Lloren



JOEY Samson



IVALURSKI Aseron

# Stars and stripe night

SIX OF TODAY'S MOST IN-demand fashion designers unveil their stripe collections in the by invitation-only Stripe Night of Metrobank Card Corp. Sept. 23 at MyCinema, Greenbelt, Makati.

Featured designers are Randy Ortiz, Dennis Lustico, Ivarluski Aseron, Avel Bacudio, Joey Samson and Jojie Lloren.

'M Here is a distinctive look that allows Metrobank Card holders to enjoy perks, privileges, discounts and other exciting shopping, dining and recreational treats.

Aloy Alday, first vice president of the Metrobank Card Corp., says the 'M Here striped logo is the passport to a rewarding shopping experience.

Ortiz, president of the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines, says stripes are suited for clubbing or going out for chic metrosexual male.

Avant-garde Bacudio says stripes are never boring.

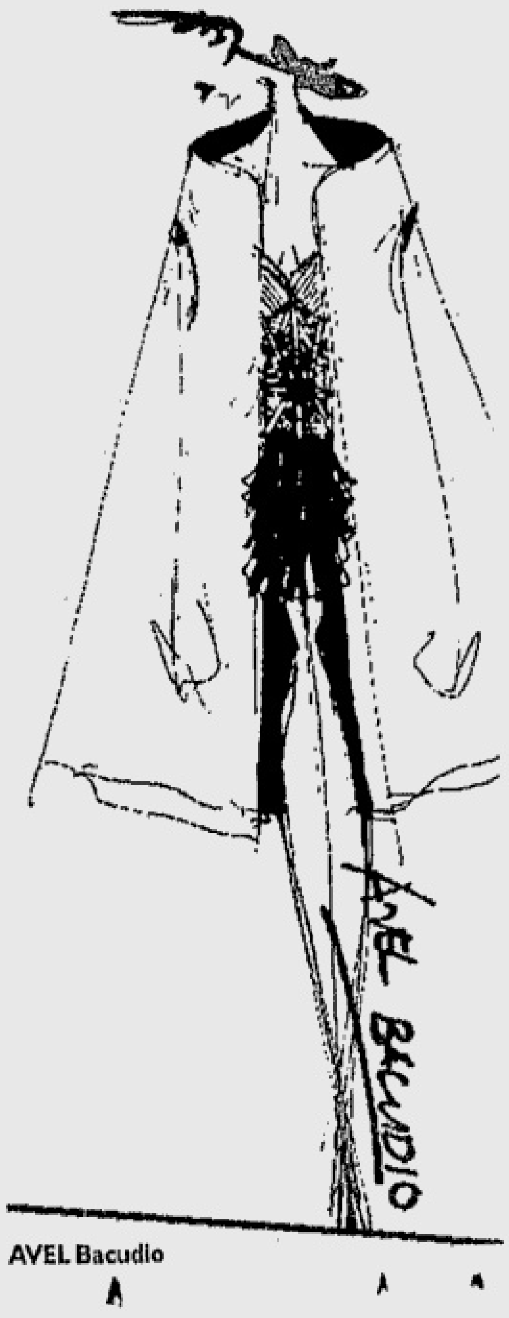
Lustico says stripes are very feminine, while bringing a sense of adventure and fun.

Aseron says the design remains classic with a touch of sophisticated funk.

For his designs, Samson says individuality will be at the forefront.

Lloren, former winner of the Young Designer Competition in Paris, says stripes will be showcased in terms of streamline and cut.

Metrobank credit card holders should check out establishments with the striped 'M Here sign to access amazing offerings.



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# Twin dilemma: dry hair but greasy scalp

FINALLY, A CUSTOMIZED HAIR-care regimen for "schizophrenic" hair.

My hair's condition is a common one. Originally, I have very oily hair and scalp, but because of my addiction to highlighting my hair for the last eight years, the strands have become dry and damaged but the scalp and roots are as greasy as ever.

**MAKEOVER 911**

*Kinny Salas*

Whenever people send shampoo to my house they send me the ultra-moisturizing or damaged-hair treatment, which makes my scalp grease up more and causes my hair to fall out in clumps, at times leaving me with actual bald spots.

When I explain to people that I need one for oily hair and a rich conditioner for my dry ends, they always contradict me and change my shampoo request last minute.

I made an appointment with Kadus for hair and scalp analysis at Tinette and Co. Salon.

Step one was being examined by a hair- and scalp-analyzing gadget, which would magnify your scalp and hair strands several hundred times and reflect it on a TV monitor for you to view.

I told them about my rituals: 1) I wash my hair twice a day to prevent odor and greasy build-up; and 2) I did not wash my hair that morning so they would get an accurate reading that afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

My reading showed that my scalp was very oily even if I washed it at 10 p.m. the night before with oily hair shampoo.

## The salon

The good news was that it was very white and even colored wherever they zapped the magnifier with no discoloration or sun damage whatsoever.

The dandruff I used to have in abundance was totally gone as well. All those antioxidants and hair vitamins I have been taking have done a great job.

I recommend Supreme Vital Hair for Hair and Scalp from Health Express.

The strands of my hair told a different story. The ones at the roots were oily, midpoint was very

TWIN/ F2

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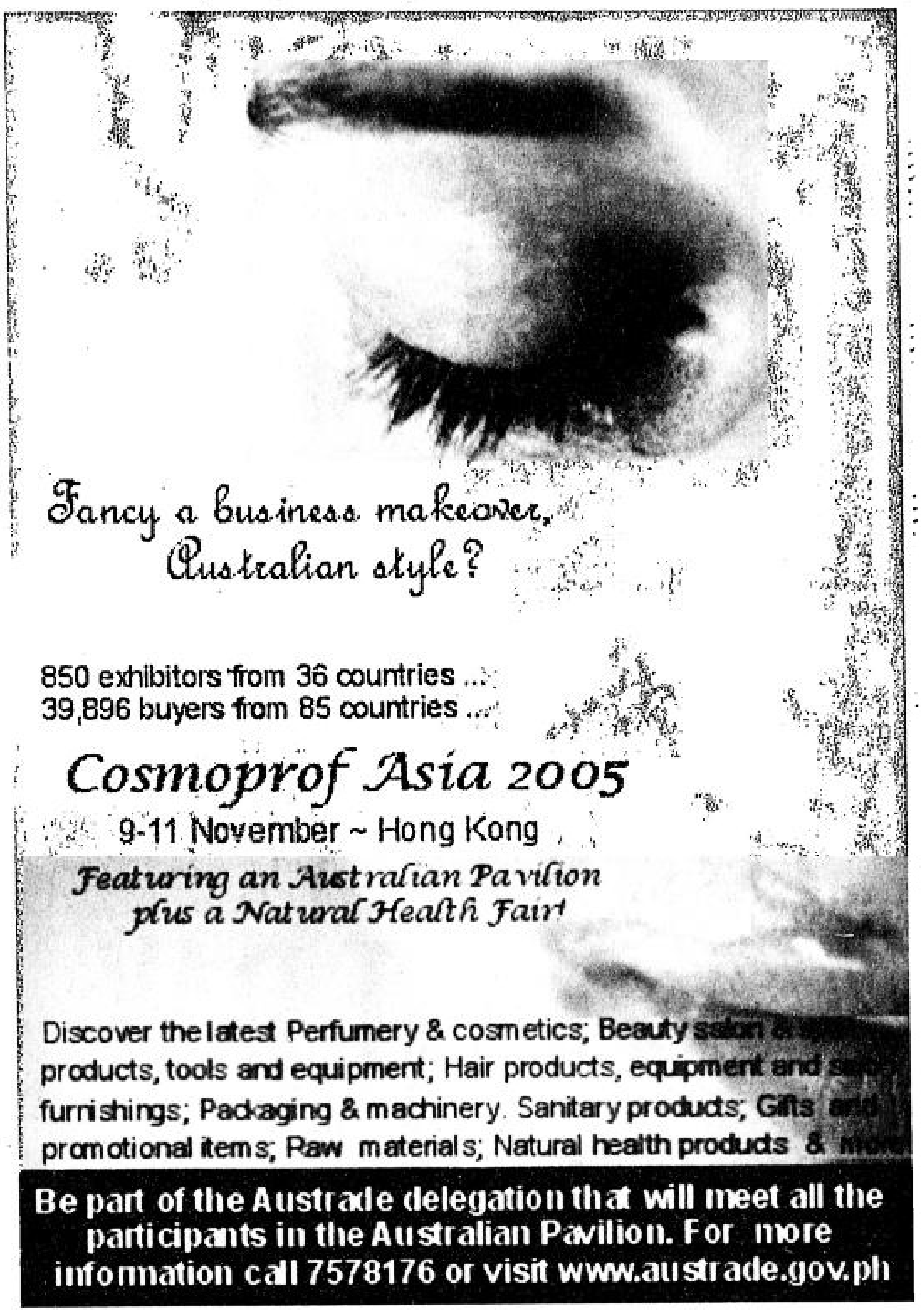
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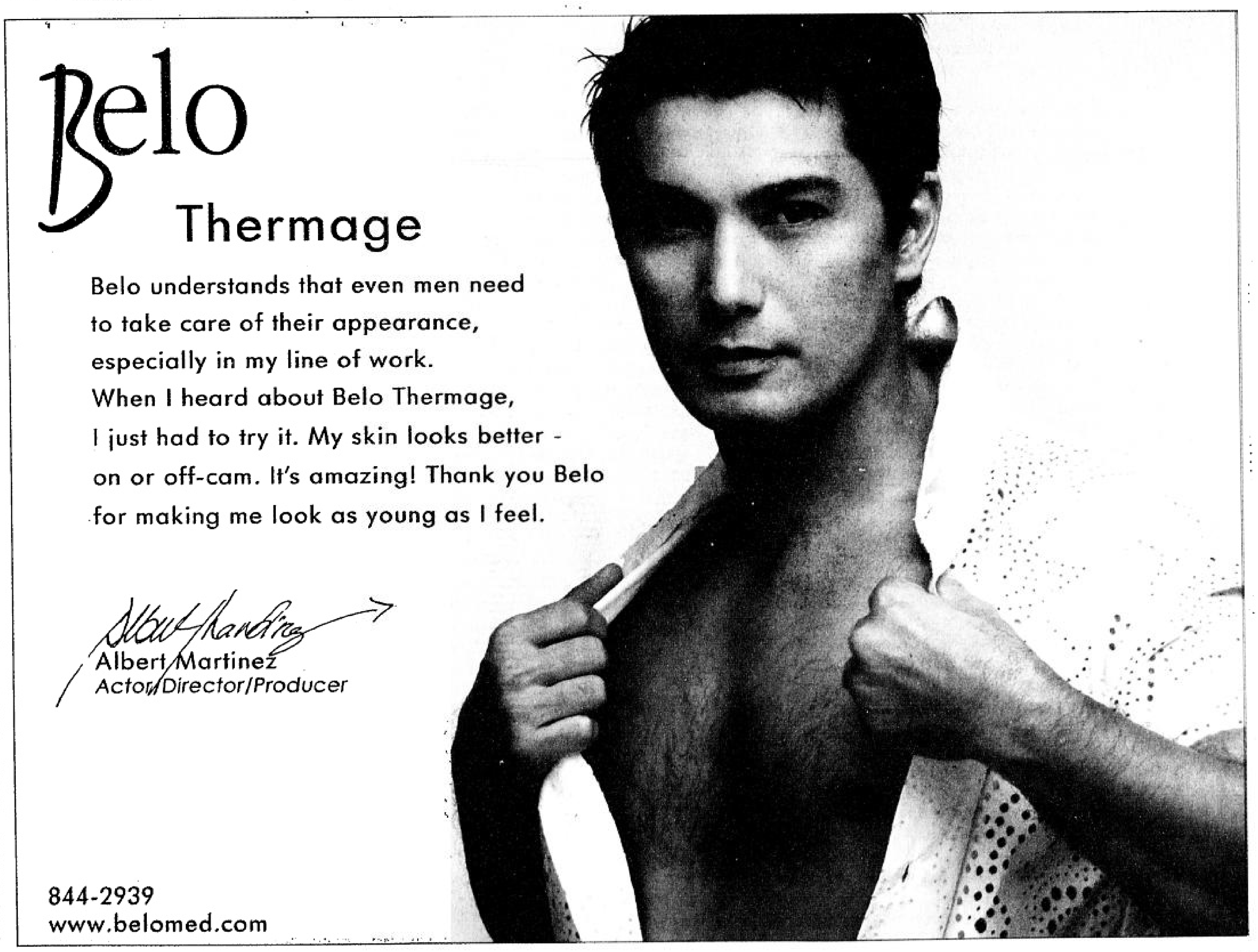
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Belo understands that even men need to take care of their appearance, especially in my line of work. When I heard about Belo Thermage, I just had to try it. My skin looks better - on or off-cam. It's amazing! Thank you Belo for making me look as young as I feel.

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FORMER Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz Araneta

# Ultimate beauty destination

FOR DECADES, RUSTAN'S HAS BEEN THE one-stop destination for the world's top brands in cosmetics and toiletries.

Guests who attended the recent cocktail launch of Essenses: The Ultimate Beauty Destination program at Gateway Mall in Araneta Center were reminded of the wide range of brands and products that Rustan's brings to both local and foreign customers. The various product categories include cosmetics, fragrances, hair care, body care, nail care and well-being, represented by such esteemed names as the Estée Lauder Group, La Prairie, Sisley, Chanel, Dior, Awake, L'Occitane, Phyto, Dermalogica, Murad, La Mer, Laura Mercier and Nars.

The program formalizes Rustan's new effort to market to *balikbayans* and foreign tourists such as the Japanese, Koreans and Taiwanese, which have been increasing in arrivals.

Rustan's brands are comparatively lower-priced than in other countries. Thus, tour operators, convention organizers, airlines, hotels and resorts are being invited by the Rustan's Cosmetics and Toiletries group to design personalized shopping and pampering packages for their clients.

The launch was graced by prominent travel and tourism personalities such as former Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz Araneta (now a TV personality in RJTV's "Gemma & John" talk show), Westin Philippine Plaza director of sales and marketing Rose Libongco, Air Philippines senior vice president Patty Chiong and "Travel Time" host Susan Calo-Medina.

Call 8440872.

WESTIN Philippine Plaza director for sales and marketing Rose Libongco (left) and "Travel Time" host Susan Calo-Medina

AIR PHILIPPINES senior vice president Patty Chiong

# SUNDAY'S A FEAST DAY

### At the Gourmet Food Fair, Santuario De San Antonio Parish Hall, Forbes Park, September 18,2005

Callos
Paella
Wawa Linda's Kitchen Gourmet
Christmas Ham

Mary Grace Ensaymada

Come Sunday, September 18, be sure to eat a light breakfast. Or better yet, skip it altogether because you'll surely want to make room for the multitude of gourmet dishes waiting for you at the Santuario De San Antonio on Parish Hall in Forbes Park.

St. Scholastica's High School Class of '74, in cooperation with the St. Scholastica Alumnae Foundation, presents the **Gourmet Food Fair**, which brings together food vendors from all across the country under a single roof. Be treated to a local and international buffet featuring some of the finest pastries, desserts, patés, bottled sauces, marinades, sausages and deli items, beverages, and some truly delicious secret family recipes never before made available in the market.

A favorite among ensaymada lovers is Scholastican entrepreneur Mary Grace's recipe for this local delicacy-soft to the bite, and topped with creamy butter and queso de bola. Made only from the freshest natural ingredients, her products are always a crowd drawer in bazaars all year round!

If you like authentic regional specialties like acharang ubod from Lukban, kinunot from Laguna, or gourmet tuyo and crunchy garlic in soybean oil, you must check out Misis Edz at the food fair. Delicious!

Misis Edz Gourmet Products

For the gourmet food lover, Tierra de España will be offering a delectable selection of Spanish tapa fare. Jamon Serrano and Jabugo, Chorizo Pamplona and Sobrasada. And for your special breakfast sausages, try the Chistorra and Casero. A must try is their very own Fabada and patés and spreads made from the finest salmon, Manchego cheese, port wine and herbs.

Now if you're looking for a really different kind of treat, look for Gigi's champagne jams! Made with all natural ingredients, oranges, lemons, champagne and Grand Marnier. A classy gift for your discriminating friends.

From Flour power, you must take home with you their little bundles of decadent chocolate and caramel concoctions, superfudge brownie bars and other sinfully delightful pastries and deserts.

Wawa Linda's Kitchen boasts of secret family recipes like the paella, Christmas ham and her famous callos. They just melt in your mouth and the memory of it will linger with you for days!

Taba ng Talangka

As a final tip, don't fail to check out Susan's homemade talangka sauce and adobo flakes! She only gives these away at Christmastime to her closest friends, but for this food fair, these homemade secret family recipes are available to everyone.

Adobo Flakes

For authentic German sausages made only from the finest meats and ingredients, make sure you ask Susan's girls for Donua specialties. Personally prepared and marketed by a German chef based in Manila and married to Scholastican Marietta Sager, they will surely be a hit with family and friends.

For those with an equally hearty appetite to learn how to cook, demonstrations will be conducted at the main stage of the Parish Hall by none other than the talented chefs of the Center for Culinary Arts. Chef Ojie Reloj takes you on a tour of Asian cuisine from 10:30am to 3:30pm. Do not miss it!

So whether you love food, love to cook it, or just love to spend Sundays with the family, the **Gourmet Food Fair** at the Santuario De San Antonio Parish Hall is the perfect place to go to this Sunday. Proceeds will go to the various outreach activities of Batch '74 and to the alumnae scholarship fund. This event is in line with the centennial celebration of St. Scholastica's College Manila in December 2006. Special thanks to Pepsi Cola Products, Inc., our beverage sponsor for the day!

Champagne Jams
Chistorra De Pamplona
Jamon Serrano

Mary Grace concocting new recipes

# 'Watery' comfort and pampering

"ACQUA" is Italian for water, and the newly opened Acqua Salon in Alabang takes inspiration for its name from the fact that water not only hydrates the body, but also keeps the hair shiny inside and out.

Acqua also recognizes the relaxing and therapeutic effect of water and seeks to provide these benefits through its complete range of hair and scalp treatments in a relaxing environment that also nourishes the spirit.

The shampoo station at Acqua, fast gaining popularity owing to its unique setup, is designed to set the mood for the entire pampering experience. Guests enjoy a shampoo, where the nutrients of Acqua's specially blended shampoo are gently and thoroughly massaged into the scalp, while lying down comfortably on an ergonomically full-length lounge, in the privacy of a dimly lit room with soft music and aromatherapy candles.

Completing the Acqua Salon experience is its highly qualified staff—its stylists rose to the very top of the best international salon organizations in the Philippines, while others apprenticed for many years with leading makeup artists. On top of their styling experience, they were given further training to learn and understand the science behind truly healthy hair.

Prices for haircut, hair color, hair and scalp treatments, makeup, nail services and waxing are mid-range. Prices notwithstanding, Acqua Salon's meticulously planned service program ensures that guests leave the salon refreshed, rejuvenated and definitely looking their best. Acqua Salon is at Westgate Center, Filinvest, Alabang. Call 7711340.

RECEPTION area of Acqua Salon at Westgate Center in Filinvest, Alabang

# Twin dilemma: Dry hair but greasy scalp

From page F2

healthy and the ends were dry to very damaged.

## Treatment

My prescription: Step 1) **Kadus Sebum shampoo** for scalp and roots for lather then rinse-off; Step 2) Follow with **Revital** shampoo for dry and porous hair from mid point to ends of hair only; then rinse; and 3) Use **Revital Balancer** conditioner to massage the hair for four minutes.

It sounds tedious, but I no longer have to wash my hair twice a day to get the results I want. There is no more scalp odor for over 24 hours which to me is such a liberating feeling. The rest of my hair is sleek, shiny and full of body.

So now I have a lift on the roots and my former dry flyaway ends are tamed.

I got to take home the three items in my prescription, but extensive treatments like the scalp tonic and hair masque are for salon use only.

After my hair dried, the salon zapped my scalp and hair again and the clumps of grease were gone. This is important because oily hair is actually the main cause of hair loss and falling hair. It blocks the hair opening and the hair that should come out will just be trapped and die inside.

Of course being me I cannot help but experiment with different brands. I just apply the same principle as my prescription.

Here are the products and their prescriptions: **L'Occitane Verbena** or **Artemisia** shampoo for the scalp, **Angelica** shampoo for hair and **Angelica Conditioner.**

**Phytocedrat** for scalp, **Phytocitrus** for hair strands and **Sesame** conditioner.

**Kérastase Bain Prevention** for the scalp; **Kérastase Bain reflection Bain Miroir** and **Conditioner** for the hair; and **Kérastase Chroma Reflect Treatment Milk.**

**Kérastase** is the most expensive so I reserve this for hot dates and very formal evenings.

I have discovered something useful and handy at Dermalogica.

Full spectrum wipes at P1,100 for 15 pieces combine SPF 15 protection with a whole gamut of antioxidants such as grape seed, green tea and Vitamins A,C, and E to repair and prevent environmental damage.

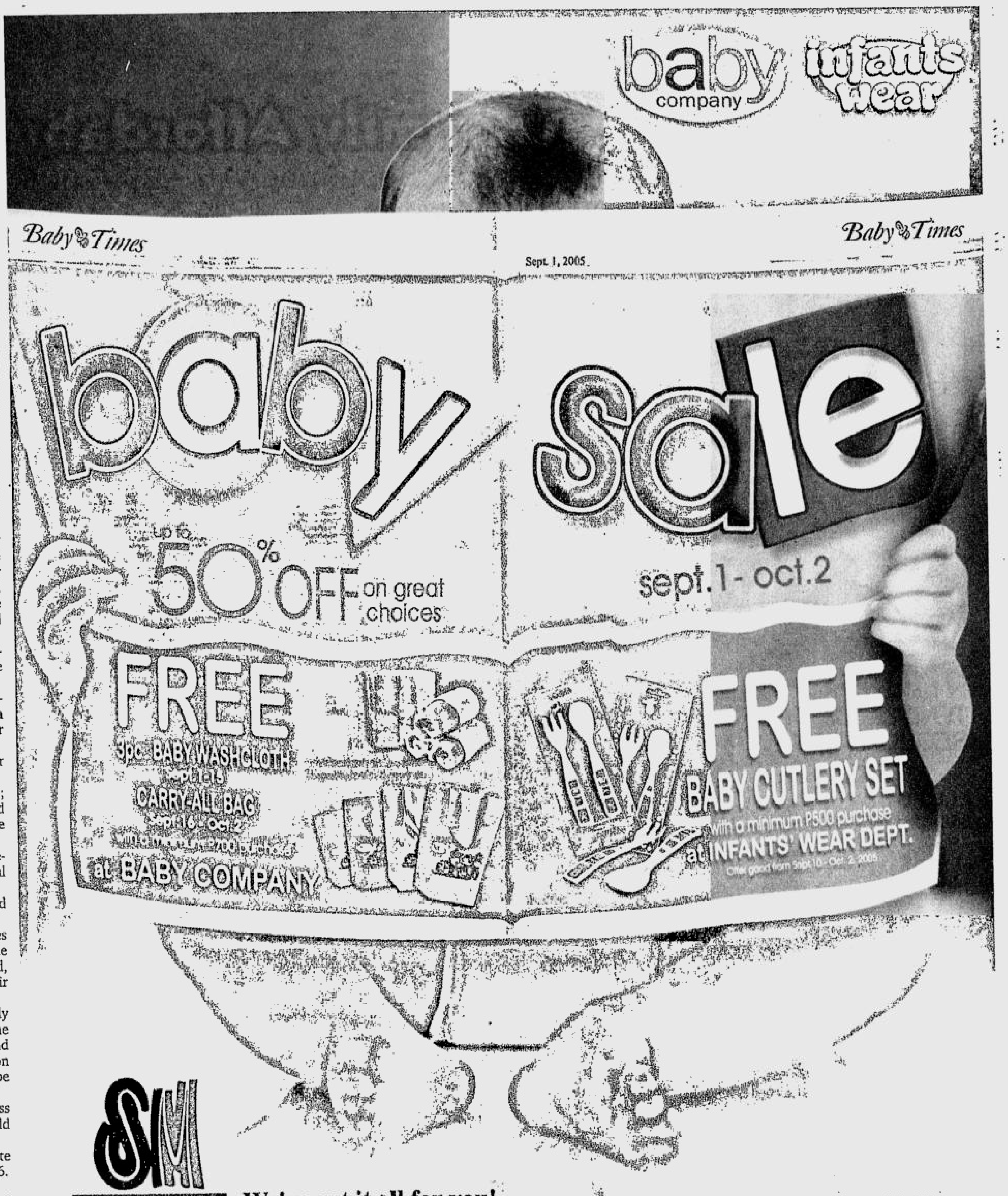
The treatment doesn't feel sticky. It actually gives a cooling and soothing feeling. One moist sheet is enough for the whole face and body. I use this to retouch my SPF protection within the day as sunblock in bottles could be a bit messy and feel warm.

SPF 15 is sufficient for these colder, less sunny months. For summer though, I would recommend SPF 30 at the very least.

Kadus treatments are offered at Tinette and Co. 8933091 and Salon de Ken 8481886.

*For inquiries on Supreme Vital Hair, call Health Express at 8929364.*

*E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com*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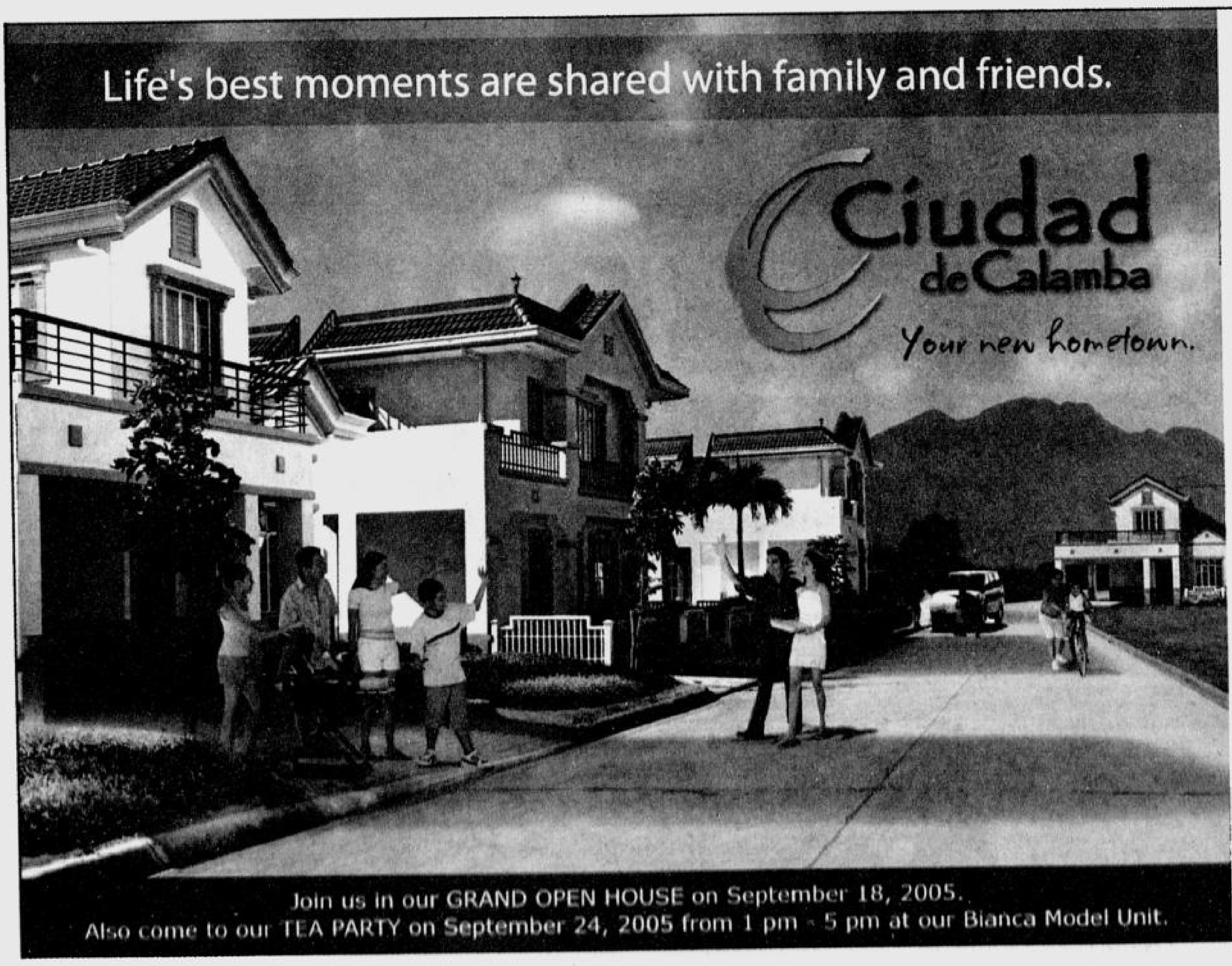
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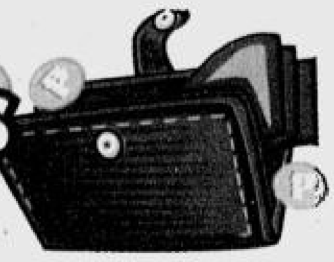

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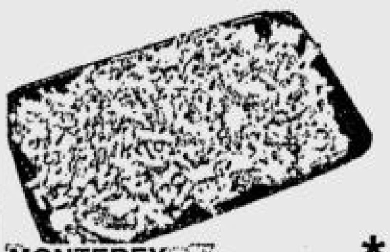
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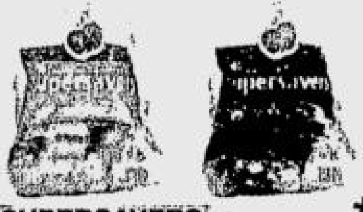
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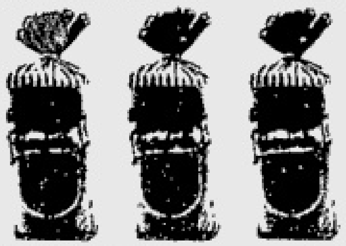
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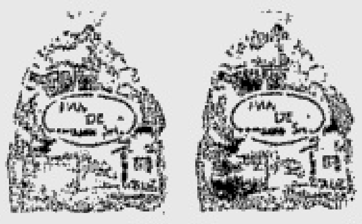
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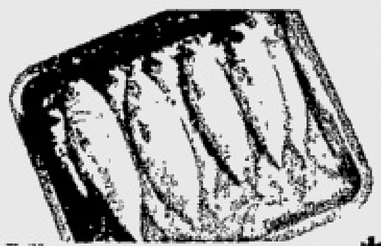
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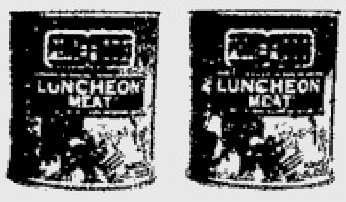
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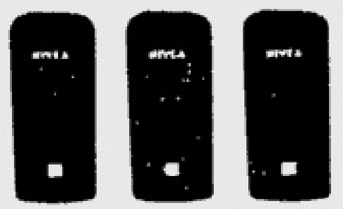
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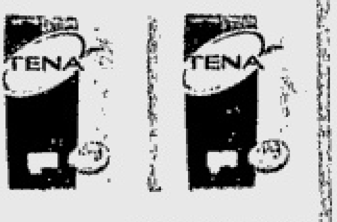
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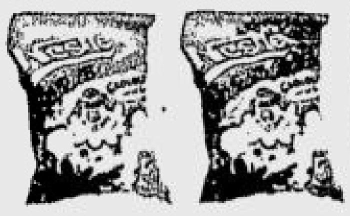
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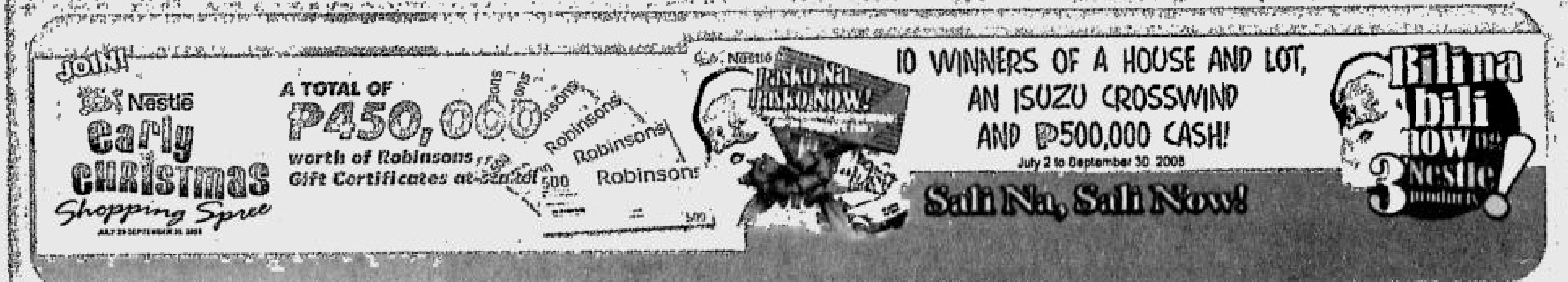
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